MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

4 MAY 1982

Death of Algerian Foreign Minister

Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Seddik Ben Yahia was killed in a plane crash near the Iranian-Turkish border while on an official visit to Iran to review ways to end the Iran-Iraq war, Tehran radio reported early on 4 May. All 15 persons aboard the plane apparently perished, according to AFP.

Iranian Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani told the Majlis that Iraqi planes had chased Ben Yahia's plane before it crashed, IRNA reported. He said Iran will release taped conversations with the plane recorded by the Iranian control tower that will reveal Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's part in the incident.

Announcing the crash, Algiers radio said that when the aircraft failed to arrive in Tehran as scheduled on the evening of 3 May, Iranian officials informed the Algerian ambassador that the plane had landed at Damascus. However, since the Syrian authorities denied that the plane had landed there, Algerian officials maintained contact throughout the night with the authorities in Iran, Turkey, Syria and elsewhere to ascertain the fate of the aircraft. Iraq was not among the radio's list of countries contacted.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

More than 7,000 Iraqis have been killed or wounded since the start of the "Jerusalem operations," according to a Guards Corps and armed forces communique carried by Tehran radio. During an Iraqi attack west of the Ahvaz-Khorramshahr road, 17 Iraqi tanks were destroyed and a large number of Iraqis were killed or injured, the communique reported. One Iraqi unit was also surrounded and completely destroyed during this clash. An Iraqi attack on the Salehabad front was repulsed by Iranian forces as fighting continued on most of the western fronts, according to another military communique carried by the radio.

A total of 16,530 Iranians have been killed and 138 Iranian tanks, 14 helicopters and 4 planes have been destroyed in the fighting since 30 April, INA reported. According to another INA report, an Iraqi military source denied Iranian claims that Iranian forces control parts of the Ahvaz-Khorramshahr road. He asserted that Iraqi forces are in full control of the road and that all Iranian attempts to seize it were foiled. Iranian troops were forced into a disorderly retreat in the Taheri-Halub bridge area west of the Karun River, according to a military communique carried by Baghdad radio. An Iraqi military spokesman denied Iranian claims that 12 Iraqi planes had been shot down in recent battles and noted that only 1 plane had been lost, INA reported.

Iran

More than 50 members of the Mojahedin-e Khalq were killed or arrested during a security operation, according to a joint communique by the Public Relations Office of the Guards Corps and public prosecutor's office carried by Tehran radio. Ten key Mojahedin activists, including two Majlis candidates, were among those killed. Documents, money and jewelry were seized and more than 10 safehouses were destroyed during the operation. According to AFP, roadblocks were set up at major intersections in Tehran following armed clashes between authorities and unidentified dissidents.

Israel

Begin Speech -- After the interim period of Palestinian autonomy specified in the Camp David agreements, Israel will take action toward realizing its "right of sovereignty over Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza District," Prime Minister Menahem Begin told the Knesset in a speech broadcast by Jerusalem radio. When Israel applies its national sovereignty to these areas, it will maintain and observe full autonomy for their Arab inhabitants, he announced. Begin said the autonomy negotiations must take place in the capitals of the

three nations participating in the talks. It is unthinkable for Israel to accept the boycotting of Jerusalem as one of the three venues for the negotiations, he emphasized. Stating the government's view that the autonomy arrangements are a guarantee that under no circumstances will a Palestinian state be established in the areas of western Eretz Yisra'el, Begin said the government will strengthen and expand the Jewish settlements program. In any future peace negotiations between Israel and its neighbors, Israel will reject any suggestion that Jewish settlements be removed, the prime minister affirmed.

Earlier in his speech, which marked the opening of the Knesset summer session, Begin said Israel will never accept any violations of the peace treaty and Camp David accords and if they are not honored, this will lead to the "appropriate, swift reaction" in accordance with international law. President Husni Mubarak has given explicit commitments to prevent the smuggling of war material from Egypt into Israel and to faithfully adhere to security arrangements in the demilitarized and "thinning-out" zones, Begin noted.

Peres Speech -- In his reply speech, broadcast by the radio, Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres said Begin's announcement that Israel will reject any proposal to remove Jewish settlements stems from a guilty conscience about the evacuation of the Sinai settlements. The Alignment rejects settlement in densely-populated Arab areas because the annexation of hundreds of thousands of Arabs against their will could turn Israel into a binational state in which Arab-Jewish conflicts would increase, Peres said. Affirming that an Alignment government would conclude the autonomy negotiations, Peres said it will be impossible to come to an agreement with Egypt unless both sides make several compromises. He reaffirmed the Alignment's desire to negotiate with Jordanian King Husayn, asserting that the alignment would offer Husayn a compromise, although not on matters of security.

Sharon U.S. Visit -- Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon will visit the United States in about 2 weeks, Jerusalem radio reported.

Lebanon

An explosion completely destroyed the Syrian intelligence center in the southern township of Shihin, wounding three persons, according to a 4 May Voice of Lebanon radio report. Earlier, the radio reported clashes in Beirut between the Amal movement and leftist factions.

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PLO 30 APRIL STATEMENT LAUDS CONTINUED UPRISING

NC301318 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1245 GMT 30 Apr 82

[Text] A statement issued by the PLO Executive Committee affirms that national unity is manifested today in its highest form through the uprising of our people, which has been asserted through the comprehensive rallying around the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and around the national institutions inside the occupied homeland.

The Executive Committee affirmed the continuation of the uprising proves the determination of our people to foil the enemy's plans, particularly the civil administration, and to resist the hostile settlement policy.

The statement says the continuation of the uprising is an expression of the will of all the Palestinian masses inside and outside the occupied homeland. It added that the Palestinian masses and all the revolution's fighters on the firing lines with the enemy express their extreme admiration for the struggle of their brothers and pledge to continue the struggle, side by side, until the enemy's plans have been defeated.

The statement calls on the Arab masses to prove today, more than at any previous time, their support for the masses of our Palestinian people and the Golan masses by backing this uprising through all forms of support and solidarity. It also calls on the forces of liberation and progress in the world to express their support for the struggle of our people.

'ARAFAT ON EGYPT, SYRIA, LEBANON, EEC STAND

GF021345 Ash-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 2 May 82 pp 1, 10

[By Muhammad Muhib Jabir]

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has asserted the PLO's stand on Egyptian policy has not changed following Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai.

In a statement to AL-KHALIJ prior to his departure from Abu Dhabi yesterday, 'Arafat said: "The PLO's attitude toward Egypt is an attitude toward policies, not toward individuals. We maintain the same stand toward Egyptian policy and toward the Camp David policy. We shall continue this stand since the United States and Israel have begun implementing the second stage of the Camp David policy by attempting to impose a civil administration on our people inside the occupied territories."

In answer to a question on the statement by Yehoshu'a Sagi, chief of the Israeli intelligence service, on connections between the PLO and Egyptian Army officers, 'Arafat said: "There are many ties between us and all of the Egyptian Army. The Egyptian Army has fought four wars in Palestine and has given martyrs for this cause. I am a former reserve officer in this noble army."

'Arafat said: "Let the Israeli intelligence chief understand the Egyptian Army is part of the Arab nation despite the Camp David conspiracy." He asserted: "We have great confidence in the Egyptian people and army. This confidence will always remain the basis of our attitude toward Egypt, its history, civilization, people and army."

Asked about the situation in southern Lebanon, 'Arafat asserted the Zionist enemy has massed four divisions while the Israeli Navy is blockading the Lebanese shores and Israeli warplanes are daily violating Lebanon's airspace. 'Arafat said these developments are significant since they indicate the Israelis are preparing for a new war against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples. He said this war is likely to develop into a Syrian/Palestinian-Israeli clash.

'Arafat added: "This is what the Palestinian and Syrian leaderships take into consideration when they discuss current developments."

'Arafat asserted, "The current uprising in the occupied territories has begun to turn into a revolution in which our people are resisting with stones the enemy's tanks and the most sophisticated U.S. weapons of destruction that are being used in the war against our people and nation." 'Arafat said: "This uprising is a true expression and a basic embodiment of our people's will in resisting the Camp David conspiracy and its results and consequences, including the autonomy plot and the civil administration farce. It signifies the stubborn determination of our people, masses, children and women at a time when the enemy's crimes against our masses and children are increasing. This organized official terrorism by the Israeli military clique has reached our holiest places, as could be seen several times recently at Al-Aqsa Mosque."

Referring to the EEC chairman's current tour of the area that began in Kuwait on 30 April in a new search for peace, 'Arafat denied any knowledge of this and said the EEC's stand toward the Palestinian question is one of retreat. He said this is clear in all the EEC's recent policies.

PLO DIPLOMAT PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO GROMYKO

JN301958 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1745 GMT 30 Apr 82

[Text] Muhammad ash-Sha'ir was today appointed the PLO's envoy extraordinaire in Moscow during an inauguaration ceremony held in Moscow. TASS said USSR Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko today received Brother Ash-Sha'ir, who presented his credentials. TASS added the meeting was an opportunity to discuss means of bolstering USSR-Palestinian relations.

During the meeting, Gromyko reaffirmed the USSR's desire to increase its backing for the struggle of the Palestinian people to regain their inalienable rights. The USSR decided to grant diplomatic status to the PLO representation during Yasir 'Arafat's visit to the USSR last October.

PLO ENVOY PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO GDR'S HONECKER

JN302008 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1745 GMT 30 Apr 82

[Text] ADN has said 'Isam Kamil Salim, the first PLO ambassador to the GDR has presented his credentials to Comrade Erich Honecker, chairman of the GDR State Council. During the meeting with the ambassador, Honecker stressed the need to recognize the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to establish their independent state.

The GDR agreed to raise the PLO's diplomatic representation in Berlin to embassy level during the brother leader's [Yasir 'Arafat] visit to the GDR last March.

'ARAFAT ACCEPTS INVITATION TO VISIT INDIA 'SOON'

NC291227 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1115 GMT 29 Apr 82

[Text] The Indian minister of external affairs announced in New Delhi that Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] will soon visit India in response to an invitation from Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Speaking at a meeting in Solidarity with the Palestinian people yesterday, the minister said Brother Abu 'Ammar's visit to New Delhi will contribute toward closer cooperation between India and the PLO.

GULF AFFAIRS

SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT ABOLISH OMANI ENTRY VISAS

LD031936 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1816 GMT 3 May 82

[Text] Riyadh, 3 May (SPA) -- The Governments of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have decided to abolish entry visas for citizens of the Sultanate of Oman as of 1 May 1982 in implementation of the decisions of the first conference of the interior ministers of the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] and in harmony with the fraternal spirit characterizing the cordial relations among the council member countries.

The council's Secretariat General has announced that, in view of the conditions prevailing in some countries, it was agreed with the Sultanate of Oman to abolish entry visas for members of the ruling families, prominent personalities and official delegations representing council member countries on visiting Oman as of that date and for businessmen visiting Oman as of 15 June 1982.

This good initiative epitomizes the principles and bases laid by the kings and leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council member countries with a view to consolidating ties among the citizens of the council member countries who constitute one family.

KUWAIT

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM COMMENTS ON HAIG INTERVIEW

LD020838 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0705 GMT 2 May 82

[Text] Kuwait, 2 May (KUNA) -- In its lead editorial today, AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM comments on a press interview with U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig published after the completion of the Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai on 25 April in which he stressed the only way to settle the Middle East question has been and will continue to remain the Camp David accords.

The paper says General Haig, in his interview in the latest issue of TIME magazine which came out after the withdrawal from the Sinai, explained that any departure from the Camp David line means the parties will lose the fixed "time space" to find a solution to the Middle East problem.

It notes that Haig's reference to this time factor reveals the whole American course is based upon it and considers it as a basis for the problem's resolution. It says: "Since Washington, through the Camp David accords, was able to extricate Egypt from the Arab camp, the Palestinian subject remains, according to Haig's last remark, left to time."

The paper underlines the paragraph in which the U.S. secretary spoke about the strategic consensus in the Middle East after the withdrawal from the Sinai within the frame of "direct Soviet threats to the region and the threats formed by those working for the Soviet and the radical-to-moderate Arab regimes and the collective interests of the Arab-Israeli world."

At the end of its comment the paper says that we, without any difficulty, comprehend the essence of American policy and its two faces: First, there is no framework other than Camp David for Palestine and the occupied Arab territory; second, total integration of what General Haig called the Arab-Israeli world in confronting those who form a danger to American interests in the region.

QATAR

TEXT OF QATARI-MOROCCAN JOINT STATEMENT

GF011412 Doha QNA in Arabic 1125 GMT 1 May 82

[Text] Doha, 1 May (QNA) -- The State of Qatar and the Kingdom of Morocco have reaffirmed a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East can be achieved only by the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces from all the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, and the restoration of all the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to establish an independent state in their homeland under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

This was declared in a joint statement issued in Doha today on the official 4-day visit of Moroccan Prime Minister Maati Bouabid to Qatar that ended today.

In their joint statement, the two sides emphasized their readiness to exert every possible effort on their part and support all serious and sincere Arab efforts to end Arab differences and unify Arab ranks in order to prepare for the resumption of the 12th Arab summit conference in Fes, Morocco, and come up with a joint Arab action that achieves the Arab nation's national aspirations and goals.

The two sides expressed their great anxiety at the continuation of the armed conflict between Iraq and Iran and reaffirmed the need to end bloodshed among Muslims and end this conflict by peaceful means.

The Moroccan side paid tribute to the GCC for its role in furthering the development of the GCC countries and achieving security and stability for the peoples of the area free from any external interference.

Following is the text of the joint statement:

At the invitation of Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and minister of defense, Moroccan Prime Minister Maati Bouabid, accompanied by an official delegation of ministers and senior officials, made an official visit to the State of Qatar from 5-8 Rajab 1402 Hegira, corresponding to 28 April-1 May 1982.

The Moroccan prime minister and the delegation accompanying him were accorded a warm welcome which expressed the close ties that bind the peoples of Qatar and Morocco and the nobility of the fraternal sentiments reciprocated by the leaders of the two countries.

The Moroccan prime minister met with His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, and conveyed to his highness an oral message from King Hassan II of Morocco in which he sent his greetings and good wishes and expressed the sentiments of brotherhood and amity which the Moroccan people harbor toward the Qatari people.

The Qatari and Moroccan sides, led by Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani and Maati Bouabid, held talks in an atmosphere of understanding and true brotherhood. The talks dealt with bilateral relations, the foundations of which were laid down and consolidated by the leaders of the two countries. The two sides also discussed various aspects of bilateral cooperation, the latest developments in the Arab world and international issues of mutual interest.

With regard to bilateral relations, the two sides noted with great satisfaction the continued development of these relations in the fields of politics, economics, culture, labor, tourism, information, sports, youth affairs and other spheres. They stressed their joint desire to continue to strengthen these relations and expand cooperation between them to serve the interests of their two countries and peoples and the interests of the Arab nation. They decided to set up a joint committee to strengthen relations between the two countries.

When reviewing inter-Arab relations in general, the Qatari and Moroccan sides expressed their deep anxiety at the deterioration in relations among some Arab countries, a deterioration in relations which can only benefit the Arab nation's enemies and those who are lying in wait for it. The two sides reaffirmed their absolute belief that Arab solidarity is indispensible to the Arab nation, is its strongest weapon and the best means to confront challenges and stave off all threats.

The two sides stressed their countries' anxiousness to make every effort on their part and support all serious and sincere Arab endeavors to end Arab differences and unite the Arab ranks in readiness for the resumption of the 12th Arab summit conference in Fes, Morocco, at the earliest possible date in order to come up with joint Arab action which would achieve the Arab nation's national hopes and aspirations.

With regard to the foremost Arab issue, the Palestinian question, the two sides reaffirmed that a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East can be achieved only by the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces from all the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, the restoration of all the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people's homeland under the leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. In this regard the two sides highly value the heroism and valor of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories in confronting Israeli tyranny. The two sides reaffirmed their full support for this fraternal people in their legitimate struggle to regain their homeland and full rights.

The two sides strongly denounced the continued savage Israeli actions and the recent barbaric crimes perpetrated by Israel in its violation of the sanctity of Al-Aqsa Mosque and its attack on an innocent and unarmed congregation praying in the mosque. The two sides also condemned the barbaric Israeli air raids on bases of the Palestinian resistance and Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon -- a crime that constitutes a new link in Israel's chain of aggression against the Arab and Muslim nation, a violation of all human values and principles, and defiance of all international laws, norms and resolutions. This requires an initiative by the international community, and particularly the superpowers that bear the responsibility for the respect of international legality, to take immediate practical measures to safeguard the supremacy of the law and consequently international peace and security, which have become greatly threatened as a result of Israel's obduracy and unlimited disregard for the will of the international community.

The Qatari side greatly appreciated the sincere and indefatigable efforts of the Jerusalem Committee under the chairmanship of King Hassan II of Morocco to achieve its aim of defending Jerusalem, saving it from Zionist tyranny and aggression and restoring it to Arab sovereignty and to the Muslim nation.

The two sides reviewed the situation in Lebanon and expressed their profound belief in the inevitability of a reconciliation among the various Lebanese groups as a means to safeguard Lebanon's unity. The two sides emphasized their support for all the efforts being made to achieve peace and stability in Lebanon and safeguard Lebanon's territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty under its legal authorities.

The two sides discussed the tension in the Arab Maghreb and expressed hope that peace and understanding will prevail and cooperation will be established among the area countries to further the interests and prosperity of the peoples of the area.

On reviewing the current situation in the Gulf region, the two sides expressed their deep anxiety at the continued armed conflict between Iraq and Iran, reaffirmed the pressing need to end bloodshed among Muslims and end this conflict by peaceful means through negotiations and emphasized their full support for any efforts exerted toward this end.

The Moroccan side paid tribute to the GCC for its role in furthering the development of the GCC countries and achieving security and stability for the peoples of the area free from any external interference or world conflicts or rivalries.

The Qatari and Moroccan sides expressed their satisfaction at the convergence of their views on other international issues they discussed, particularly African issues and Arab-African relations. The two sides stressed the need to develop and strengthen Arab-African relations to serve the interests of the Arab and African peoples.

The two sides also expressed complete satisfaction with the positive results of the visit by the Moroccan prime minister to the State of Qatar.

Prime Minister Maati Bouabid and the delegation accompanying him paid tribute to Qatar's achievements and progress in various fields under the leadership of its amir, Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani. The distinguished guest expressed his gratitude at the true Arab hospitality accorded him and the delegation accompanying him in their second home, Qatar.

Prime Minister Maati Bouabid conveyed an invitation from King Hassan II of Morocco to the amir to make an official visit to the Kingdom of Morocco. The amir gratefully accepted the invitation and promised to make the visit at the appropriate time. His excellency also invited the heir apparent and minister of defense to visit the Kingdom of Morocco. The invitation was gratefully accepted and its date will be fixed later.

AR-RAYAH ON 'ARAFAT'S EFFORTS TO END GULF WAR

GF011444 Doha AR-RAYAH in Arabic 1 May 82 p 1

[Text] Abu Dhabi -- AR-RAYAH has learned from informed Arab sources that Mr Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO [Executive Committee], is currently making intense efforts within the framework of a search for a peaceful settlement to end the Iraqi-Iranian war. The sources explained to AR-RAYAH that 'Arafat's visit to Saudi Arabia was dedicated to discussion of this issue with Saudi officials, and that this is the purpose of his current visit to Abu Dhabi.

The sources indicated 'Arafat met with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid during his stopover in Abu Dhabi yesterday and discussed this issue with him in view of the prospects of an Algerian move. The sources added 'Arafat was awarded full Gulf support during his earlier visit to Kuwait, and his visit to the UAE is to begin a new tour aimed at ending this war.

The sources say it is not unlikely 'Arafat will shortly be making a visit to Tehran. If he does, this will be his first visit since the beginning of the tension in Iranian-Palestinian relations about a year ago.

The sources expect 'Arafat will also visit Doha, Manama and Baghdad during this tour.

AR-RAYAH also learned the other object of 'Arafat's tour is to brief the region's leaders on the prospects of the upcoming war in southern Lebanon, the dimensions of the popular uprising in the occupied territories, as well as the enemy's plans for the era following the Sinai's return to Egypt.

'Arafat arrived in Abu Dhabi yesterday.

SAUDI ARABIA

PRINCE SA'UD TALKS WITH BELGIUM'S TINDEMANS

LD022112 Riyadh SPA in English 1900 GMT 2 May 82

[Text] Jidda, 2 May (SPA) -- Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans today conferred with his Saudi counterpart Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal on the Palestinian issue. Following the meeting here a Saudi Foreign Ministry official said the two ministers also reviewed "possible contribution of the European Economic Community towards the settlement of the long-standing Mideast issue."

The official said the two sides discussed the Saudi peace plan for the Middle East. He said Mr. Tindemans will report on the outcome of his fact-finding mission to the officials of EEC. He added that the Belgian minister expressed his satisfaction over the kingdom's stand on the Middle East issue as explained by Prince al-Faysal. The official said Prince al-Faysal told Mr Tindemans that Israel "will try to exploit the meeting of the Political Committee of the Council of Europe to be held in Jerusalem."

Mr. Tindemans, who is also the president of the 10-nation EEC Council of Ministers arrived here last night from Kuwait on a one-day official visit to Saudi Arabia. In the course of his fact-finding mission, on behalf of EEC Ministerial Council of assess the Middle East situation and explore channels to an overall Arab-Israel peace, Mr. Tindemans is expected to visit also Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Syria and Israel.

EGYPTIAN PAPERS RETURN TO CIRCULATION IN KINGDOM

PM301455 Riyadh AR-RIYAD in Arabic 26 Apr 82 p 28

[Unattributed report: "Egyptian Newspapers and Magazines Return to Kingdom's Markets; Saudi Newspapers Once Again in Circulation in Cairo"]

[Excerpts] Egyptian newspapers and magazines have returned to the kingdom's markets and bookshops after a ban lasting almost 3 years. The distribution of Egyptian newspapers resumed the day before yesterday. Saturday, the dailies AL-AHRAM and AL-JUMHURIYAH and the weeklies AKHAR SA'AH and AL-MUSAWWAR were distributed normally and all copies sold out the same day, being purchased by both Egyptain and Saudi citizens. However, the ban continues on AL-AKHBAR and AKHBAR AL-YAWM, whose chief editor is Musa Sabri; the weekly OCTOBER, whose chief editor is Anis Mansur; and the As-Sadat party's newspaper MAY, whose chief editor is Ibrahim Sa'dah.

In turn, Saudi newspapers are being distributed daily in Cairo and are read on the same evening or the following day.

UAE

PRESIDENT ZAYID PROPOSES INITIATIVE ON GULF WAR

GF031002 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0635 GMT 3 May 82

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 3 May (WAM) -- The Supreme Federal Council held a meeting presided over by UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan at Al-Bahr Palace at 2045 yesterday.

'Abd al-'Aziz Hamid al-Qasimi, minister of state for Supreme Council affairs, said in a statement after the meeting that President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan exchanged opinions with his brother members of the Supreme Council of current issues on both the Gulf and Arab levels. He said the Supreme Council's members exchanged opinions and took into consideration matters which interest their Arab nation, emphasizing Gulf questions and the Iraqi-Iranian war, which has endured too long.

The minister added that the president assured his brothers of his profound concern over the serious Arab situation and the continuing calamities the fraternal Palestinian people are suffering, as well as the Israeli aggressions against southern Lebanon and the Golan and its continuing violations of Arab rights.

The minister of state for Supreme Council affairs explained the Supreme Council's members unanimously supported the president's opinion and his proposal concerning an urgent initiative with the brothers in the region to seriously, immediately and actively seek to stop the bleeding between our Muslim brothers in Iraq and our Muslim neighbors in Iran.

The minister added that the meeting reviewed the Arab situation comprehensively in view of evolving developments among the Arab brothers which resulted in disruptions in the Arab rank, something which does not serve the interests of the Arab nation and its solidarity. He added the council stressed that disagreement among the Arabs results in their rights being violated and their possessions being usurped. He also stressed that as an Arab nation that faces one future, our duty is to solve our problems, attempt to eliminate differences, establish unity and lay down the bases of solidarity and cooperation.

The minister concluded his statement by saying the Supreme Council's members agreed to let the president do whatever he feels is appropriate in order to contact the brothers in a manner which would reunite the Arabs, restore Arab solidarity and enable the Arab nation to achieve its goals in order to confront the dangers which are thratening it as this extremely critical stage through which it is passing.

JAPANESE MINISTER SHINTARO ABE ARRIVES ON VISIT

GF021050 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0815 GMT 2 May 82

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 2 May (WAKH) -- Dr Mani' ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE minister of petroleum and mineral resources, met this morning with Shintaro Abe, Japanese minister of international trade and industry, who is currently visiting Abu Dhabi. Dr al-'Utaybah said petroleum relations between the UAE and Japan were discussed during the meeting. He said: "These relations gain special importance due to the fact that 40 percent of the UAE's oil exports go to Japan and this constitutes about 14 percent of Japanese oil imports."

He added that during the meeting the two officials discussed the results of the visit Yasir 'Arafat, the PLO's Executive Committee chairman, made to Japan last year, resulting from the Palestinian-Japanese dialogue that took place under the auspices of the UAE.

Dr al-'Utaybah added that the discussion dealt with the call for a dialogue between petroleum producers and consumers, because this will serve the interests of both sides.

He explained that he stressed to the Japanese minister the importance of joint cooperation in order to maintain the petroleum market.

In his capacity as present OPEC chairman, Al-'Utaybah requested industrial states to stop taking oil from strategic storage as this can weaken OPEC measures to maintain oil prices and a balanced petroleum market.

The Japanese minister promised to convey this request to his colleagues in the other industrial states.

Al-'Utaybah mentioned the discussion also dealt with cooperation between the UAE and Japan in all fields of energy, particularly solar energy. He indicated the Japanese minister expressed his country's full readiness to offer advanced technology to the UAE in the field of solar energy.

Delivers Message to Zayid

GF021203 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 2 May 82

[Text] UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has received a written message from Japanese Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki on reinforcing cooperation between the UAE and Japan in all fields. The message also renewed the invitation for the president to visit Japan. The president promised to accept the invitation at the appropriate time.

The message was delivered by Shintaro Abe, Japanese minister of international trade and industry, during his meeting with the president at Al-Batin Palace this afternoon.

WAM has learned that President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan stressed to the Japanese minister the importance of developing and bolstering relations between the UAE and Japan in particular and between Japan and the Arabs in general. The meeting was attended by Ahmad Khalifah as-Suwaydi, president's representative; Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, minister of petroleum and mineral resources; and Noboru Nakahira, Japanese ambassador to the UAE.

Al-'Utaybah Comments

OW040135 Tokyo KYODO in English 0006 GMT 4 May 82

[Text] Abu Dhabi, May 3 KYODO -- Mani' ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah, chairman of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), said here Monday that the OPEC may carry out a further reduction in crude oil output if there is such a need.

Al-'Utaybah, who also is petroleum and natural resources minister of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), told Japanese newsmen accompanying Shintaro Abe, minister of international trade and industry, on his visit to the UAE, noted that the OPEC presently was producing 15.85 million barrels of oil per day.

He said the OPEC was prepared to maintain output at this level also in the July-September quarter of this year but added there is possibility of production being reduced if there is such a need. He thus stressed that his organization planned to maintain the price level decided by it.

Al-'Utaybah said the supply-demand situation for crude was showing a trend toward recovery due to the production cutback of the OPEC.

He said the OPEC meeting held in Vienna last March was a success and a collapse of the oil market was averted as a result. This can be seen by the fact that spot prices had recovered since the OPEC meeting, he said.

Al-'Utaybah said the OPEC will not use oil as a weapon against Japan since that country is a friendly country.

MOROCCAN PRIME MINISTER BOUABID ARRIVES ON VISIT

GF011100 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 1 May 82

[Excerpts] Moroccan Prime Minister Maati Bouabid arrived in the country from Doha today on his first state visit to the UAE. The 4-day visit is part of his tour of a number of countries in the region. The Moroccan official was received at the airport by Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad, a number of ministers, diplomatic corps heads, military and civilian officials and Moroccan Ambassador to the UAE (Abdelaziz el Mashkouri).

UAE Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad met at Al-Mushrif Palace with Maati Bouabid for a short while. Friendly talks were exchanged during the meeting. The UAE official welcomed the visit of the Moroccan prime minister and wished him a good stay.

The prime minister is accompanied by his wife and an economic and political delegation comprising Tayeb Bencheikh, secretary of state for the prime minister's office in charge of economic affairs; Mohamed Tougani, secretary of state for administrative affairs; Abdellatif Semlali, secretary of state for youth and sports; Ahmad Hammoud, secretary of state for foreign affairs; and Abdelkadir (el Nouiri), first secretary of the Transportation Ministry.

Moroccan Prime Minister Maati Bouabid's visit to the UAE is the fourth leg in his current tour of a number of Arab Gulf countries, which has also included Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar.

Talks With UAE Officials

GF020929 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0808 GMT 2 May 82

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 2 May (WAKH) -- Official talks between UAE Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad and Moroccan Prime Minister Maati Bouabid began in Abu Dhabi this morning.

The meeting was attended on the UAE side by Sa'id al-Ghayth, minister of state for cabinet affairs; Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs; 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Jarwan, Foreign Ministry under secretary; and Nasir an-Nuways, director general of the Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development.

The meeting was attended on the Moroccan side by Tayeb Bencheikh, secretary of state for the prime minister's office in charge of planning and regional development; and Mohamed Tougani, secretary of state for administrative affairs.

Bilateral relations, current developments in the Arab region and issues of mutual interest were discussed during the meeting.

Holds Press Conference

GF030802 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0600 GMT 3 Apr 82

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 2 May (WAKH) -- Moroccan Prime Minister Maati Bouabid said his meeting with Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuayyan, UAE president; Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid, heir apparent and commander in chief of the armed forces; and Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad, deputy prime minister, dealt with views on a number of Arab, international and Islamic issues.

At a press conference held here this evening, Mr Bouabid described the results of his talks with UAE officials as positive. He said these talks will enhance the development and reinforcement of bilateral relations.

He said his talks with leaders of the states he has already visited -- Kuwait and Bahrain -- concentrated on five main points: the necessity to unite Arab ranks, the Iraqi-Iranian war, the tension in North Africa, the situation in Afghanistan and relations between Morocco and the Gulf states.

He stressed his country's support for any Gulf state whose security is threatened, on the basis that the security of the Arabian Gulf is an inseparable part of the security of the all Arab states.

Talking about the Iraqi-Iranian war, the Moroccan prime minister said in spite of his country's support for Iraq, and although it has put all its resources at Iraq's disposal, it still supports all efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement in order to put an end to this war that has claimed thousands of Muslims in both countries.

He called on Arabs to agree, if only to a small degree, to enable them to confront the current challenges. He said disagreement and dialogue should not always result in alienation. He reaffirmed there has to be a minimum limit of Arab solidarity for the Fes summit conference to be resumed after the month of Ramadan. He indicated that if the conference is to reconvene, it must not fail.

On Egypt's return to the Arab fold, the Moroccan prime minister called on the Arab states to reassess the situation following the Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai in order to define their goals clearly within the framework of the minimum limit of Arab agreement which can permit Egypt's return to the Arab league. He indicated the liberation of the Sinai is the liberation of an Arab territory. Mr Bouabid warned the OAU faces the likelihood of exploding due to the tension existing among the North African states.

Joint Communique Issued

GF031512 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1530 GMT 3 May 82

[Text] Abu Dahbi, 3 May (WAM) -- The UAE and Morocco today affirmed that durable and just peace in the Middle East cannot be achieved without Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab tertitories, including holy Jerusalem and the Syrian Golan Heights, and the recognition of the firm Palestinian people's rights to self-determination to establish their state on their land under the leadership of their sole and legitimate representative, the PLO.

In a joint communique issued this evening in Abu Dhabi and Rabat at the conclusion of an official visit to the UAE by Moroccan Prime Minister Maati Bouabid, the two sides condemned the repeated bestial Israeli aggressions on the holy places and the recent tyrannical Israeli aggression in Lebanon and the Palestinian refugee camps located there.

The two sides saluted the tumultuous popular uprising in the occupied Arab territories against the inhumane and oppressive measures the occupation authorities are using against the Arab Palestinian people.

Departs for Oman

LD022140 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 May 82

[Unidentified correspondent's dispatch from Abu Dhabi]

[Text] Prime Minister Maati Bouabid has ended his visit to the UAE and will leave tomorrow for the Sultanate of Oman, the last country he will visit during his current Arab Gulf tour. I can say the results of the visit have measured up to the aspirations of both countries. [words indistinct]

The UAE has agreed to finance the middle (?basin) project. An agreement will be signed between the two countries on the establishment of a construction company during July. This is in addition to tourist, sea fishing and other companies. I have also learned the UAE will grant Morocco a $200-million loan. [passage indistinct]

RESHUFFLE EXPECTED IN NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY

NC302342 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2325 GMT 30 Apr 82

[Text] Cairo, 30 Apr (MENA) -- In its Saturday edition, the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH reports that the followup committee of the National Democratic Party will hold an important meeting on Tuesday to discuss replacing some leaders in the secretariat general, some provincial secretaries and some chairmen of subcommittees.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says these replacements are expected to be announced at the end of next week after being reviewed by President Husni Mubarak in his capacity as party chairman.

MUBARAK MEETS U.S., EGYPTIAN HOUSING EXPERTS

NC031049 Cairo MENA in English 0939 GMT 3 May 82

[Text] Cairo, 3 May (MENA) -- President Husni Mubarak held an enlarged meeting here this morning for housing experts in Egypt and the United States with the aim of finding a suitable solution for the pressing population problem in Egypt.

The meeting included Speaker of the Shura [Consultative] Council Dr Subhi 'Abd al-Hakim, Deputy Premier for Finance and Economic Affairs 'Abd al-Fattah Ibrahim, Minister of Planning Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, State Minister for Information Safwat ash-Sharif, State Minister for Migration Affairs Albert Barsum, Minister of Reconstruction and State Minister for Housing and Land Reclamation Hasaballah al-Kafrawi, Minister of Waqfs [religious trusts] Ibrahim ad-Dasuqi, [as received] Dr Mustafa Hilmi, Minister of Insurances and Social Affairs Dr Amal 'Usmah, as well as other senior state officials interested in the housing and population problem. The meeting was attended on the American side by the U.S. ambassador here Alfred Atherton, and the head of the AID as well as other U.S. senior officials.

MUBARAK CABLE STRESSES ISRAELI POLICY CONTINUITY

NC031900 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 3 May 82

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has sent cables of thanks to People's Assembly Speaker Dr Sufi Abu Talib, Consultative Council Chairman Dr Subhi 'Abd al-Hakim and Controller General of the Specialized National Councils Dr 'Abd al-Qadir Hatim in reply to their cables of congratulations on the occasion of the return of the Sinai to the motherland.

In his cables, President Mubarak says, by virtue of its historical and civilized responsibility, Egypt will confidently proceed along its path until a comprehensive and just settlement of the cause of the Palestinian people is realized.

MUBARAK RECEIVES LABOR PARTY LEADER SHUKRI

NC021420 Cairo MENA in English 1347 GMT 2 May 82

[Text] Cairo, 2 May (MENA) -- President Husni Mubarak received today leader of the Labour Party Ibrahim Shukri, who said following the meeting that it was a necessary one after the final Israeli withdrawal from Sinai.

He added that he discussed with President Mubarak a number of domestic issues and gave him the party's visualisation for the coming stage.

He added that it might be that there were no complete conciliation of views between the president and himself but added that through dialogue they could arrive to the cherished target.

He added that the mouthpiece of the party ASH-SHA'B will be issued on Monday, [Cairo MENA Arabic 021316 version reads "be issued on Tuesday"] adding that a date will be fixed at a later stage for the interview President Mubarak will grant to the paper.

On a question of whether he will hold any contacts or make visits to some Arab states, Shukri said that President Mubarak had cleared the atmosphere for efforts exerted in this respect, adding that "We will help with our role in order to reach this end as the target is to restore the Arab solidarity for the general interest."

AL-AKHBAR WELCOMES RETURN OF ARAB RELATIONS

NC040820 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 4 May 82

[From the press review]

[Text] An AL-AKHBAR editorial headlined "The Arabs and the Return of Relations with Egypt" says: There has been much talk in the Arab world about resuming relations with Egypt. All those who reiterated this talk affirm that this return is very near and necessary. The Saudi newspaper AL-JAZIRAH says Morocco is prepared to resume diplomatic relations with Egypt in the near future and that several Arab countries are expected to follow suit. The Saudi paper quotes Moroccan sources in Rabat as saying every day that passes with Egypt away from the Arab fold harms the Arab cause. The paper says Arab countries have the same view and appreciation of the situation and that the resumption of relations will be achieved faster than many people expect.

AL-AKHBAR asserts that in view of this definite desire by Arab countries, Egypt will inevitably respect and respond to it. There is no absolute evil or absolute good. Perhaps a mistake will turn out well. Past experience has convinced the Arabs of the reality of Egypt's position and the extent of the historic responsibility it shoulders toward the Arabs. Egypt has never abandoned this responsibility. In returning to their position, convinced of Egypt's reality and its stand toward the Arabs, they are holding to an unbreakable bond. This is a basic foundation of Arab strength, with which they can face the world with [a united] opinion, will and view defining their interests and path.

AL-AKHBAR continues: With such strength the Arabs can achieve a just and comprehensive peace throughout the area, enlarge their interests and become the masters of these interests so they will not be the targets for parties that have ulterior, suspect purposes. Thus, we believe the resumption of relations will harm those who do not harbor good will toward the Arabs and those who do not want the area to be one of peace, security and stability. We expect to hear anomalous voices and see suspect moves, but they will not succeed or shake the established fact or impede its march toward the desired peace and good.

AL-AKHBAR points out that we bless the resumption of relations the Arabs are calling for not merely because all we want is the resumption of relations, but because it will eliminate the factors that divide Arab unity and fan dissension and hostility among them. Arabs must cement their strength, safeguard their interests and move forward. This is the meaning of the historic responsibility Egypt has shouldered and is shouldering toward the Arabs. Egypt will not disavow this responsibility under any circumstances.

Concluding its editorial, AL-AKHBAR says Egypt has so far said nothing and it had nothing to do with all that has happened. Egypt adheres to the position it has declared and will never deviate from it or relinquish its responsibilities toward the Arabs in any stand. In seeking peace, Egypt seeks it for all Arabs and insists on a just and comprehensive peace for all Arabs.

AL-WATAN: HAYKAL CALLS FOR AID TO GULF STATES

LD031404 Kuwait KUNA in English 1242 GMT 3 May 82

[Text] Kuwait, 3 May (KUNA) -- A prominent Egyptian journalist Monday called on Arab states to help Egypt return to the Arab fold and proposed that oil-rich Gulf countries offer substantial financial aid to the government of President Husni Mubarak to help it face an "extremely complicated political, economic and social situation."

Mohammed Hasanayn Haykal, who was appointed as information minister for a limited period during [words indistinct] of late President Jamal'Abd an-Nasir, repeatedly asserted that the change should not cover Egyptian policies only but should engulf the whole Arab world as well.

In an interview with the local daily AL-WATAN, Haykal said that "the return of Egypt is of vital importance at present more than at any previous time and thus daring initiatives should be adopted to adjust the situation."

He wondered, "What prevents the Gulf countries who pay and have paid large sums of money in various spheres from extending a five billion dollar aid to Egypt to free it from any future pressures in the forthcoming sensitive stage."

"It is a vital mission, the one who starts it is not important, let bygones be bygones," Haykal added.

The Egyptian journalist gave examples of a number of factors and changes on the Arab and international platforms which urge the Arabs to "Confirm our national non-sectarian existence and to pursue an independent policy."

He named among other factors the Iraqi-Iranian war, disparity between the two superpowers and the present role of Arab oil.

The renowned journalist warned against the contraction of the Iranian revolution from a human phenomenon into an Islamic one, into a Shi'te and finally into an Iranian-Shi'ite case.

Haykal described the Iraqi-Iranian conflict as "very serious" and predicted that if it does not end reasonably we will be threatened with a sectarian strife.

The world balance has been shaken, Haykal said and added that the Soviet Union now stands at equal footing with the U.S.

"It is high time to give up the hollow words which followed the Arab-Israeli October war in 1973 that we are going to stage a sacred war against international communism," he added.

The whole Arab world and not only Egypt should change the talk on "international communism, alliances, bases and dependence on America. Even if we do not need alliances we are in need of an independent policy," Haykal said.

He warned that time is limited for an effective use of the Arab oil weapon for its financial and economic strength has been already contained.

HUSAYN HONORS AIR FORCE FOR HEROISM, COURAGE

JN021056 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0935 GMT 2 May 82

[Text] Baghdad, 2 May (INA) -- President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Iraqi Armed Forces, has ordered that the Ar-Rafidayn Military Order of the First Class be bestowed on the command of the air force and air defense. The order, which is the highest order in Iraq, has been bestowed in appreciation of the heroic stand and outstanding courage shown by the air force and air defense members in the recent battle and in previous battles.

During the past 2 days, Iraqi fighter planes carried out 360 combat missions and raided the Iranian port of Khark, which is important for exporting oil, inflicting heavy damages. In a cable to the president on this occasion, the commander of the air force said the air force command received news of the bestowing of the Ar-Rafidayn Military Order of the First Class with pride and appreciation. The command considers the order a bond of loyalty between the ruler and his soldiers. Last November the commander of the air force received a medal of valor in appreciation of his heroism and outstanding courage.

FRONT COMMANDERS SEND MESSAGES TO PRESIDENT

Muhammad al-Qasim Forces

JN301058 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1025 GMT 30 Apr 82

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

From the commander of the Muhammad al-Qasim forces to Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, president of the republic, commander in chief of the armed forces and hero of liberation, our president and leader: We would have liked you to be among us so that you could see for yourself how your brave, heroic soldiers are fighting with deep faith, armed with the name of God, from one trench to another. Your faithful and sincere soldiers are fighting and inflicting complete destruction upon all the enemy troops on all axes.

At this very moment a number of enemy units are hopelessly encircled. They are awaiting their inevitable fate which is the fate of every oppressive aggressor. Our lions are loyal to you, the Iraqi people and the Arab nation and are determined, with love and sacrifice, to score victory on behalf of the heroes who were martyred. We will add another lesson to the previous lessons in determination and sacrifice along the road of defending great Iraq.

Long live our great leader. We pledge to you that we will not allow the arrogant, cowardly enemy to advance 1 inch. Long live the heroic Iraqi Army under your command. Let history record glory to the sons of vitorious Iraq. Let the nation know that it has sons who believe in it and are ready to sacrifice for it. Long live the leader of our march, proud of us all. May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] The staff brigadier general, commander of the Muhammad al-Qasim forces

Air Force Commander

JN301445 Baghdad INA in English 1430 GMT 30 Apr 82

[Text] Baghdad, 30 April (INA) -- Commander of the Iraqi Air Force and air defence congratulated President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the armed force on the victories achieved by the brave Iraqi pilots against enemy troops in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] and Ahvaz areas.

In a cable, the commander said Iraqi pilots have turned the battleground into a graveyard for the enemy troops after pouring lava over their heads [as heard] and proved masters of the situation. The commander challenged Khomeyni's crows to lift their heads up in the skies of the battle or to prove being able to have any effect on the battles.

Meanwhile, Iraqi helicopter gunships continued today raiding severely enemy positions and gatherings in the southern sector of the war front scoring effective hits and inflicting, in enemy's personnel, tanks and military equipment heavy losses.

Army Commander

JN301944 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1920 GMT 30 Apr 82

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Apr (INA) -- The staff brigadier general commander of the Sa'd forces announced his forces crushed the Iranian offensive in Khafajiyah [Susangered] in two stages. In a cable he sent to President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the armed forces, he said his Sa'd forces destroyed the Iranian forces which consisted of three brigades of the 16th Infantry Division. These brigades are the 31st, the 2d and the 3d Brigades in addition to large numbers of the Khomeyni Guards.

The commander said the attacking forces used five bridges to cross the Karkheh River. He said that in the first stage of the counterattack which ended at 1100 today four enemy bridges were destroyed with the forces that were crossing over. In the second and last stage of the counterattack, he added, the fifth bridge was destroyed at 1530 today. The Sa'd forces commander asserted that enemy losses in front of our positions amounted to 2,530 dead and a large number of prisoners. Four enemy helicopters were also destroyed. The commander stressed that his forces have once again tightened their steel grip following another epic in Khafajiyah.

Hittin Forces Commander

JN012101 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 May 82

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. From the Hittin forces commander to Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces: After your brave soldiers tightened the noose around the neck of the arrogant and spiteful Persians in the Khafajiyah [Susangered] and Ahvaz areas, the deranged Khomeyni indulged in false meditations which gave him a reckless idea that he could rescue his clique from this predicament. He, therefore, mobilized a large number of his infantry and guards and pushed them to attack our units in the (Jananah)-Shush sector.

In honoring our pledge to Your Excellency, our positions are like fire, burning everyone who lets himself be seduced into approaching us. Some enemy bodies caught fire and were burned to ashes on top of which the enemy remnants have fallen. It was a new and splendid lesson in which the able will emerged victorious.

President and leader: The cavaliers of the Hittin forces pledge to you and to our great people that their swords will never be sheathed and will continue to behead the Persian designs until this arrogant enemy recognizes our legitimate rights. May God grant you continued success and preserve you, a brave cavalier, for our glorious nation. Long live noble Iraq. May God's blessings and mercy be upon you.

[Signed] The brigadier general commander of the Hittin forces

MILITARY SOURCE DENIES 5 HELICOPTERS DOWNED

JN301658 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1640 GMT 30 Apr 82

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Apr (INA) -- An Iraqi military official at the air force command described the Iranian claims of downing five Iraqi helicopters as untrue. He asserted that no Iraqi plane was hit today. Speaking to INA, the military official explained that although Iraqi planes carried out intensive air raids all of them returned safely to base. He emphasized that those in chargeof the Iranian news media are accustomed to lying and their claims are no longer believed by anyone. Their informational clamor and falsification of war facts will do them no good, he added.

He said the Iraqi fighter planes and pilots who have gained great experience and exceptional skill have all day long today controlled the skies of the battlefront. The Iraqi military official challenged the Iranian officials to offer any evidence to support their claims. He said the downing of five helicopters must result in the capture of one or two pilots and, furthermore, there would be wreckage. Any such evidence will definitely convince the liars at the Central News Unit in Tehran.

OFFICIALS DESCRIBE FAILURE OF IRANIAN OFFENSIVE

Forces Commander

JN011010 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0910 GMT 1 May 82

[Text] Ahvaz, 1 May (INA) -- The commander of the Muhammad al-Qasim forces stated the Iranian enemy tried to carry out its operations from various directions, using many columns of Khomeyni Guards, with the objective of encircling our forward units in their defensive position.

In a statement to the ATH-THAWRAH correspondent on the front, the Iraqi commander said the Iranian units were supported by tanks and moved under cover of intensive artillery fire. The commander of the Muhammad al-Qasim forces revealed that his forces were ready for the enemy and had been observing its moves. He said they succeeded in killing and wounding hundreds of the enemy and taking dozens of prisoners shortly after the attack began. The Iraqi commander added that at the break of dawn, his forces inflicted further losses in life on the enemy, bringing the total number of killed into the thousands.

The Iraqi commander said that in the early hours of yesterday, several members of the Muhammad al-Qasim forces rushed to assemble the prisoners, particularly those who lost their way or tried to infiltrate under cover of darkness. He added the forward units succeeded in settling the battle in their favor after 30 hours of fierce fighting, (?completely) destroying the enemy and taking many officers and soldiers as prisoners. ATH-THAWRAH also published pictures of the Iranians killed on the battlefield, prisoners and stockpiles of hardware seized by the Iraqi forces in the various parts of the battlefield.

Military Spokesman

JN011002 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0925 GMT 1 May 82

[Text] Baghdad, 1 May (INA) -- The Iraqi forces in the 4th Army sector foiled an attempt at dawn today by the Iranian enemy to engage them in another place, following the failure of the Iranian forces' offensive in Ahvaz and Khafajiyah [Susangerd].

This was announced a short while ago by an Iraqi military spokesman. He added the Iranian enemy's attempt was completely foiled and the Iraqi forces pursued the enemy forces outside their defensive positions, imprisoning a large number of the attacking force who were evacuated to rear positions while the remainder of the attacking force was annihilated or fled from the battlefield leaving their weapons and equipment behind.

The Iraqi spokesman said the objective of the Iranian forces' attack on the 4th army sector was to ease the pressure on its forces west of the Karun who were crammed into a perilous enclave. The Iraqi spokesman explained the Iranian enemy used an infantry force in this operation in the (Jananah) area. Its desperate attempt, however, has been completely foiled.

SPOKESMAN DISMISSES REPORTS ON AIR FORCE LOSSES

JN031110 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT 3 May 82

[Text] Baghdad, 3 May (INA) -- An Iraqi military spokesman dismissed Iranian claims that 12 Iraqi fighter planes were shot down during recent battles, stressing these claims are totally baseless. In a statement to INA, the military spokesman challenged the Iranian enemy to give one bit of proof confirming the credibility of its claims, adding that the Iraqi Air Force had lost one fighter plane which was announced in Communique No 696. The spokesman asserted the Iranian enemy is resorting to such claims to conceal its grave losses and the failure of its attack which resulted in the crushing of its forces which were either killed or wounded or among the large number of those taken prisoner.

COMMANDER NOTES CAPTURE OF KHOMEYNI GUARDS

JN030827 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 3 May 82

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 3 May (INA) -- The brigadier general commanding the Muhammad al-Qasim forces stated that his troops are waiting for the International Red Cross to bury the Iranian dead. In an interview with the newspaper AL-QADISIYAH, which is published by the political guidance department at the Defense Ministry, the commander said thousands of Iranians still litter the battlefield. He added that one of his units had infiltrated deep inside Iranian territory and capturec a large number of Iranian troops, including officers and commanders of units belonging to the Khomeyni Guards Corps.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND ISSUES COMMUNIQUES

Communique No 694

JN301602 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1550 GMT 30 Apr 82

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Apr (INA) -- The Armed Forces General Command this evening announced enemy forces west of the Karun River have retreated in a disorderly manner and Iraqi forces are chasing them in the direction of the Karun River. In its Communique No 694, the Armed Forces General Command said Iraqi fighter planes destroyed the pontoons set up by the enemy in the Taheri area and the (Halub) bridge. It stressed the Iranian forces have had either to flee, surrender or face inevitable death.

The General Command also announced the Iranian offensive on the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] and Ahvaz fronts has been completely destroyed an' the main attacking Iranian forces have either been captured or fled leaving their equipment in the battlefield. It asserted the military situation in those two sectors is absolutely in favor of the Iraqi forces. It also announced that during the Iranian forces' disorderly retreat west of the Karun River, the Iraqi forces captured a large number of tanks, weapons and equipment. The text of the communique follows:

Communique No 694 issued by the Armed Forces General Command. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Nay, we hurl the truth against falsehood, and it knocks out its brain, and behold, falsehood doth perish. [Koranic verse]

1. With God's help and with the determination of the brave fighters of the Muhammad al-Qasim and Sa'd forces, the enemy's offensive in the Ahvaz and Khafajiyah [Susangerd] sectors has been foiled. The enemy suffered total failure in these two battlefronts. The enemy forces were also completely and totally destroyed. They were either killed or captured. The others fled the battlefield, leaving behind many of their wepaons and equipment. The situation is now absolutely in favor of our valiant armed forces in these two sectors.

2. After our valiant air force pilots destroyed the pontoons which were used by the enemy forces to cross the Karun River to the west from the Taheri area and (Halub) bridge and after our valiant armed forces dealt deadly blows to the enemy forces, inflicting massive losses, the counterattack forces began their activities and forced the enemy forces in this area to retreat in a disorderly manner, chased by our forces in the direction of the Karun River. Our forces captured a large number of weapons, equipment, POW's and tanks. Many of these weapons and equipment are serviceable.

In such a situation the enemy has no other choice but to flee, surrender to our heroic forces or face certain death, God willing and with the help of the brave fighters. The detailed enemy losses in these battles will be given in our subsequent communiques. God is great, victory for justice and death to the tyrant aggressors, agents of the foreigners.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 30 April 1982

Communique No 695

JN301800 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1740 GMT 30 Apr 82

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Apr (INA) -- The Armed Forces General Command has announced the enemy's losses in today's abortive offensive amounted to 5,672 dead, a large number of wounded, 18 tanks, 12 armored personnel carriers, 52 vehicles, 3 pontoons and hundreds of POW's.

Communique 695, issued by the Armed Forces General Command this evening, added Iraqi forces have captured a large number of serviceable tanks, equipment, guns and medium and light weapons. It also said Iraqi fighter planes today carried out 218 combat missions against enemy concentrations and positions in the Ahvaz and Khafajiyah [Susangerd] sectors as well as against other positions in the central and southern sectors of the battlefield. Iraqi helicopters today carried out 40 combat missions. All our fighter planes and helicopters returned safely to base. The Iraqi antiaircraft defenses shot down six enemy aircraft, five of which were helicopters and the sixth a fighter plane.

The military communique said Iraqi forces crushed the enemy's offensive in the Ahvaz and Khafajiyah sectors, repulsed the offensive at the Karun River and launched a counterattack against the enemy forces. In this counterattack, the Iraqi forces destroyed a large number of the enemy's vehicles and troops, tightening the noose on the enemy in the battle which is still continuing.

The communique stressed that Iraqi fighter planes inflicted massive losses on the enemy's vehicles and troops. It added that explosions were heard and fire seen in the enemy targets. The communique stressed the Iraqi forces' readiness to crush the enemy's abortive adventures. The text of the communique follows.

Communique No 695 issued by the Armed Forces General Command. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Men said to them: "A great army is gathering against you": and frightened them: but it (only) increased their faith: they said: "For us God sufficeth, and He is the best disposer of affairs." And they returned with grace and bounty from God: no harm ever touched them: for they followed the good pleasure of God: and God is the lord of bounties unbounded. [Koranic verse]

Glorious Iraq, with its mujahid people and heroic army, is waging one of the most honorable battles of the homeland and the nation throughout this nation's bright history, stressing its great ability to sacrifice and achieve victory over the Khomeyni clique which was blinded by a black grudge and empty haughtiness and arrogance. This clique has not accepted reason because of intransigence and haughtiness. It continued its aggression against our faithful people.

With strength and help derived from Almighty God, with the spirit of the glorious prophet followers, with the spirit of the noble ancestors and with fighters' strong determination, enlightened minds and strong arms and our great people and valiant army will remain strong and lofty and our capable forces will crush all the enemy's abortive attempts and adventures. The spiteful Khomeyni clique and those holders of Arab nationality who support it like ungrateful Hafiz al-Asad, traitor of the nation, will reap nothing but disappointment and loss. Our people and nation will score splendid victories, God willing. Victory will always be our lot. God, justice and the people are with us. The results of the battle for last night and today were as follows:

1. Our valiant forces crushed the enemy offensive in the Ahvaz and Khafajiyah sectors, totally defeated the enemy forces in these two sectors, repulsed the enemy forces which crossed the Karun River to the west bank in the area north of Taheri and (Halub) bridge and launched a counterattack during which the enemy sustained massive losses.

A large number of enemy forces were killed, wounded or taken captive. Moreover, a large number of enemy tanks and vehicles were destroyed. These losses forced the enemy to retreat under the deadly blows of our forces, which chased the enemy troops and tightened the noose around them in order to crush or capture them. The battle is still going on.

The known enemy losses that were counted by the competent quarters at the time of this communique amounted to 5,672 killed. A large number were wounded, hundreds of troops were captured, and 18 tanks, 12 armored personnel carriers, 52 vehicles -- some of which were loaded with personnel and others with hardware -- and 3 pontoons on the Karun River destroyed. A number of serviceable tanks, equipment and guns as well as a large quantity of medium and light weapons were captured.

2. Our fighter planes and helicopters continued to have complete mastery of the battle-skies. All day today our aircraft carried out strong and concentrated raids on the enemy's positions and units in the Ahvaz and Khafajiyah areas and against other military targets in the central and southern sectors of the battlefield, inflicting massive losses on the enemy by killing a large number of its troops and destroying a large number of tanks, vehicles and various equipment. Huge explosions and columns of fire could be heard and seen in the enemy positions and concentrations. All our aircraft returned safely to base.

Our fighter planes carried out 218 combat missions while our helicopters carried out 40 combat missions today. Our antiaircraft defenses today shot down six enemy aircraft, five of which were helicopters and the sixth a fighter plane.

3. We will announce our sacrifices in our subsequent communiques.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 30 April 1982

Communique No 696

JN011740 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1650 GMT 1 May 82

[Communique No 696 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 1 May 1982]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. So we took him and his forces, and threw them into the sea and his was the blame. [Koranic verse] In order to gain the ceaseless blessings of God, history, homeland, nation and noble ancestors, the sons of Iraq continued to wage the battles in a most splendid fighting spirit, thus confirming their capability of achieving and preserving victory, of crushing the forces of the arrogant enemy and of teaching the aggressive Khomeyni clique new hard lessons that would drive this clique back to where it came from and rid them of their sick illusions and dreams. Our heroic people will remain victorious and master of glory, dignity and the road of dignity and freedom. The following is the outcome of the battles that raged last night and today:

1. At dawn today the enemy made a desperate attempt against our forces in (Jananah) area in the Fourth Corps sector. Our heroic forces clashed with the enemy in a fiery battle and with all types of arms. Our forces managed to repulse the attack and chased the retreating enemy, inflicting grave losses in life and equipment, the known losses as counted by the official quarters amount to 2,704 killed, a large number of wounded and prisoners, a large number of tanks and vehicles destroyed and large quantities of various serviceable weapons seized.

2. After wiping out the enemy attack in the area north of Taheri region and the (Halub) bridge in the Ahvaz area yesterday and as a result of our units' counterattack on the enemy forces on the west bank of the Karun River who were trapped in a perilous enclave as they were trying to flee the battlefront, most of the enemy units were crushed and the remaining units will be crushed. The enemy sustained grave losses in life and equipment as a result of these battles which amounted, as counted by our ground forces so far, to 418 killed; a large number of wounded and prisoners; 64 tanks, 30 vehicles, 4 excavators, 6 guns destroyed; and several serviceable tanks, vehicles, guns and excavators as well as various equipment were seized.

3. The eagles of our air force all today continued to raid enemy concentrations and units in the Ahvaz and Khafajiyah [Susangerd] areas in the southern sector of the operations theater, scoring effective hits and inflicting further losses on its armored cars, vehicles and personnel. This caused chaos and confusion among the enemy. All our aircraft except for one, which crashed in enemy territory, returned safely to base. We hold the Iranian side responsible for the pilot's safety. Our eagles carried out 142 combat missions today.

4. All day today our helicopters continued to strike and destroy the enemy units and concentrations in the Ahvaz and Khafajiyah areas in the southern sector of the battlefield, inflicting massive losses on the enemy vehicles, equipment and personnel. Known enemy losses amounted to the destruction of 15 tanks, 14 armored personnel carriers, 14 large vehicles loaded with troops, 1 excavator, 1 gun, 1 large stockpile of hardware and various other equipment, in addition to the death of large groups of enemy personnel. All our helicopters returned safely to base. Our helicopters today carried out 62 combat missions.

5. Our antiaircraft defenses today shot down nine aircraft. One of them was downed in the Ahvaz area in the southern sector of the battlefield. It was seen falling ablaze by our ground forces.

Thus, the total known enemy losses amount to 3,122 killed and 79 tanks, 7 guns, 14 armored personnel carriers, 43 vehicles, 5 excavators and 9 aircraft, 8 of which were helicopters and 1 a fighter plane, destroyed. Our forces also captured a number of serviceable tanks, vehicles, guns, excavators and various other weapons.

6. A search of the no man's land opposite our units in the Khafajiyah area, by our patrols revealed 3,500 enemy bodies left behind by the enemy before taking to its heels in yesterday's battle. These losses are to be added to those mentioned in our Communique No 694.

The total known enemy losses in the battles waged yesterday and today amount to 8,794 dead, 97 tanks, 7 guns, 26 armored personnel carriers, 95 vehicles, 5 excavators, 13 helicopters, 2 fighter planes and 3 pontoon bridges. Moreover, a large number of serviceable tanks, vehicles, guns, excavators and large quantities of various weapons were captured and hundreds of troops were taken captive.

7. We will announce our sacrifices in subsequent communiques.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 1 May 1982

Communique No 697

JN0?0913 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0825 GMT 2 May 82

[Communique No 697 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 2 May 1982]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We did them no wrong, but they were used to doing wrong to themselves. [Koranic verse]

1. At dawn today, the enemy tried to carry out a desperate adventure with the hope of saving its ugly face before the hysterical promises with which it deluded itself, by pushing the sons of Iran, which is afflicted with this corrupt regime, into the crematorium of fighting on the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] and Ahvaz fronts. The valiant sons of the Sa'd and Muhammad al-Qasim forces confronted the enemy forces, dealt them courageous blows and destroyed them completely. The enemy forces were either killed or wounded and many of these forces surrendered to the Muhammad al-Qasim forces after realizing they had been put in a dilemma from which they could not extricate themselves. The remainder of these forces fled and retreated humiliated and defeated leaving behind their weapons and equipment. Thus, the attack completely failed as has been the case with previous attempts.

2. At dawn today the enemy tried to engage our units, which were carrying out their duty of putting pressure on the enemy in the (At-Taheri) area, (Halub) bridge, west of the Karun River, with the hope of rescuing its units west of the Karun which the enemy had placed in this perilous enclave.

The valiant units of our armed forces in this area confronted the enemy's attack, foiled it, resumed their activities of putting pressure on the enemy's force west of the Karun, carried out a counterattack with the objective of destroying the enemy forces in this area after the enemy had given them this opportunity by placing themselves in this perilous enclave.

3. The enemy losses today in the battles of the Khafajiyah, Ahvaz and west of the Karun River have reached thousands killed, a large number taken prisoner and much serviceable hardware. We shall provide you with details in later communiques. God is great and glory be to the sons of our people, nation and to our valiant army.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 2 May 1982

Communique No 698

JN021733 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1640 GMT 2 May 82

[Communique No 698 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 2 May]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. For the third consecutive day and with profound faith and strong determination the Iraqi forces continue to attack, chase and completely defeat the forces of the covetous enemy. Our valiant armed forces, while fighting like lions in the battlefields, are inspired in their holy jihad by the precious values of Heaven and the spirit of the great ancestors of historic epics, carrying high the banner of their mission.

Almighty God has granted victory to our forces because Iraq is right in fighting against tyranny, aggression and evil. God has disgraced the enemy, lowered its banner and dispersed its forces because the enemy is unjustly launching war motivated by deranged grudges and expansionist dreams. Our forces, while continuing their noble mission of destroying the enemy's abortive offensives, encircling its desperate forces and destroying its foolish adventures, feel proud and capable because they are living up to the trust put in them, carrying out a holy duty and defending the great land of Mesopotamia. The results of the battles waged yesterday night and today were as follows:

1. After sustaining massive losses in its desperate attempt yesterday to attack our units in the (Jananah) area, the enemy tried today to attack our units in the same area after the noose was tightened on its units in the Taheri-(Halub) bridge area on the West bank of the Karun River. Our brave units clashed with the enemy in a fierce battle in which all weapons were used. The enemy sustained massive losses in life, equipment and various hardware. We will provide you with the details in our subsequent communiques.

2. After repulsing the enemy offensive in the Ahvaz and Khafajiyah [Susangerd] areas as well as the offensive against our units in the Taher-(Halub) bridge area west of the Karun River at dawn today, and after crushing and destroying the enemy forces by killing, wounding or capturing them, our heroic units continued to press the enemy forces in the Taher-(Halub) bridge area west of the Karun River, inflicting massive losses on the enemy forces. These losses amounted to a large number of dead, wounded and prisoners and large quantities of serviceable weapons and equipment captured. We will provide you with the details of these losses in our subsequent communiques.

3. All day today, the pilots of our air force continued their deadly and concentrated attacks on enemy positions, units and soldiers in the Ahvaz and Khafajiyah areas in the southern sector of the battlefield, scoring direct and effective hits. A large number of tanks, vehicles and various other military equipment were destroyed and a large number of enemy personnel were killed. All our aircraft returned safely to base. Our air force pilots carried out 104 combat missions today.

4. All day today, our helicopters carried out strong raids and attacks against enemy concentrations and units in the Ahvaz and Khafajiyah areas in the southern sector of the battlefield, inflicting heavy losses in tanks, vehicles and various equipment and killing several groups of enemy troops before returning safely to base. Our helicopters carried out 52 combat missions today.

5. Three enemy aircraft were downed today in the Ahvaz area in the southern sector of the battlfield. Two of them were Phantom planes and were downed in dogfights; the third was a helicopter downed by our antiaircraft defenses.

6. Our sacrifices and the enemy's losses will be announced in our subsequent communiques.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 2 May 1982

Communique No 699

JN031718 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 3 May 82

[Communique No 699 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 3 May 1982]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. After 4 days of decisive battles waged by our capable army -- an army of justice and principles -- in the southern sector of the battlfield, our valiant forces succeeded in destroying all the enemy attacks in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] and Ahvaz sectors. Our forces finished off the enemy and imposed on it a complete defeat in those two sectors. Our forces also foiled its desperate attack in the Jananah area and destroyed its forces there, inflicting a great defeat. For the 4th consecutive day and with God's aid, our forces are still tightening the siege and noose on the enemy forces in the Taher-(Halub) bridge area, where they were horribly defeated and found themselves in a desperate situation, a matter which placed the regime of charlatans in Tehran in a difficult dilemma and a state of despair and frustration. Therefore, this regime tried to rescue these forces by sending in fresh groups of troops but there was much confusion which reflects the despicable state of the regime of charlatanism, injustice and aggression after the total failure of its abortive adventure. Our valiant forces managed to deal strong blows to the enemy forces in this area, inflicting massive losses and keeping them under a siege from which the only escape was through certain death or surrender. The results of the battles waged last night and today were as follows:

1. The result of the enemy's deseprate attempt to attack our units in the (Jananah) area at dawn yesterday was the destruction of the enemy forces. They were either killed, wounded or taken prisoners. The battle was decisively settled in favor of our brave units. The enemy losses that were counted by the competent authorities amounted to 1,500 killed and a large number of wounded and prisoners, as stated in the military spokesman's statement yesterday. Moreover, several serviceable vehicles and large quantities of medium and light weapons were captured. Our forces also discovered 286 enemy dead, 6 destroyed tanks and several vehicles of various types, in addition to the abovementioned ones.

2. Our capable units continue to maintain the momentum of their offensive and press hard on the enemy forces in the Taher-(Halub) bridge area west of the Karun River in the Ahvaz area. These forces were in a embarrassing situation and a difficult dilemma. Thus, they were forced to retreat in a disorderly manner under the blows of our heroic units which inflicted on them very large losses in life and equipment. The known enemy losses amounted to 2,407 killed, a large number of wounded and prisoners, 35 tanks, 46 armored personnel carriers, 41 guns of various types, 68 vehicles, 12 excavators and 5 boats destroyed and large quantities of serviceable weapons of various types captured.

3. An enemy troop concentration was sighted in the Mimak area opposite our psotions in Saf Sa'd. Our forces pounded it, killing 43 and wounding a large number.

Thus, the total known enemy losses amount to 4,236 killed, a large number of wounded and prisoners, 41 tanks, 46 armored personnel carriers, 41 guns of various types, 12 excavators, 68 vehicles and 5 boats destroyed and large quantities of serviceable medium and light weapons and several vehicles captured.

4. We will announce our sacrifices in subsequent communiques.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 3 May 1982

PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION RETURNS 1 MAY

JN011140 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1100 GMT 1 May 82

[Text] Baghdad -- A National Assembly delegation led by Walih Mahmud al-Khishali returned from Beirut today at the end of a visit to Lebanon that lasted several days. Walid al-Khishali delivered messages from National Assembly Speaker Na'im Haddad to the chairman of the Arab Parliamentary Union, the speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies and the speaker of the Palestine National Council on convening an urgent Arab parliamentary meeting for the adoption of a definite and united pan-Arab stand on the treasonous measures of the Syrian regime against Iraq and the Arab nation.

During the visit, the National Assembly delegation met with Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and explained to them the dimensions of our just battle against the racist Khomeyni clique. Walid al-Khishali said President Sarkis asked him to convey his greetings to President Saddam Husayn and expressed hope that the Iraqi-Iranian dispute would be settled through peaceful means in such a manner that will safeguard Iraq's legitimate rights to its water and land.

COUNCIL SPEAKER RESPONDS TO HUSAYN'S SPEECH

JN032104 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1823 GMT 3 May 82

[National Consultative Council's reply to King Husayn's opening speech read by Council Speaker Sulayman 'Arar during King Husayn's meeting with a council delegation at the Royal Hashemite Court on 3 May -- videotaped]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Your Majesty, the third National Consultative Council [NCC] has the honor of expressing its sincere thanks and appreciation for the trust you have placed in its speaker and members, a trust we shall be proud of forever.

One of the most important motives of your first visit to the NCC building was your concern for entrenching the principle of consultation between the citizens and those in office, your backing of the constitutional bodies and your support for democratic life with all its meanings of freedom of expression and opinion, respect for differences of opinion and, carrying out a dialogue with those in office within the framework of objectivity and the search for the public interest.

Your Majesty's speech at the beginning of the third NCC is a wise directive that will guide our course, explain the situation of the nation and emphasize the causes for its salvation. Your Majesty's speech is also a sincere and faithful expression of Jordan's stands and the aspirations of its people, who continue to be an extension of the message of the great Arab revolution seeking to achieve the Arab nation's objectives of freedom, unity and a better life for us and all Arabs.

Your Majesty, the third NCC joins you in greeting the steadfastness of the kinfolk in the occupied Arab territories, their legitimate jihad against oppressive occupation, and their valiant national upheaval to safeguard the holy places and protect their human rights and basic liberties, which are being disavowed by the Zionist enemy.

Despite the fact that they are unarmed, our kinfolk have succeeded in drawing international attention to the oppression of the abominable occupation that deprives them from exercising their liberties and rights.

The NCC also joins Your Majesty in greeing the soldiers of fraternal Iraq, who are standing fast on the eastern border of the great Arab homeland in the face of the designs of the Iranian regime. While the NCC supports the Iraqi stand on this war that has been imposed on it, it also supports Iraq's sincere desire to stop the war and seek a just and honorable settlement that will guarantee the return of rights to their owners, acknowledge Iraq's rights to its land and water, secure relations of good neighborliness and noninterference in the domestic affairs of the two countries.

The NCC joins Your Majesty in greeting the Egyptian people and soldiers who have returned to their land and positions in Arab Sinai. We are happy that the Sinai has been liberated from the yoke of occupation and hope the liberation of the Sinai will be the beginning of Egypt's return to the Arab ranks, the liberation of every inch of the occupied Arab territories and the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in the region. This peace cannot be achieved unless the occupation is lifted from all Arab territories, Arab Jerusalem is returned as it was -- Arab, free and lofty -- and the Palestinian people are able to exercise their right to self-determination on their national soil, including their right to establish their independent state in accordance with their freedom, will and choice.

Your Majesty, with bleeding hearts full of anxiety and sorrow, we look at Arab countries and see how the ranks have been fragmented and how differences and disputes have divided the Arab countries, thus preoccupying them with trivial matters and keeping them from their fateful causes. While we can understand the differences of opinion among some, we cannot justify others when they deem it fit to sink the ship in which the Arab nation in sailing toward its common destiny, to provide Iran with weapons, as Israel is doing, or to suspend the flow of Iraqi oil. Our disappointemnt increases when we see Iraq being stabbed in the back, and direct and indirect alliances being made with Israel against it, thus allowing the Zionist enemy to escalate its aggression against Lebanon, continue its humiliation of Arab citizens in the occupied Arab territories and announce its intransigence and defiance of the international community's will. These Arab countries were our major assets for the liberation of the occupied territories and the regaining of the usurped rights. These countries will inevitably reassume their historical role no matter how long this takes.

COUNCIL SPEAKER RECEIVES IRAQI DELEGATION

JN291521 Baghdad INA in English 1500 GMT 29 Apr 82

[Text] Amman, 29 April (INA) -- President of the Jordanian National Consultative Council, Sulayman 'Arar, strongly condemned Syrian regime's measures of closing borders with Iraq and shutting down the pipeline which carries Iraqi oil to the Mediterranean across Syrian territories.

During a meeting with a visiting delegation from the Iraqi National Assembly, headed by member of the assembly, Sab'awi Ibrahim, Mr 'Arar said the Syrian decision was an unhumanistic action and a violation of international rules and norms. The Jordanian official paid tribute to victories of the Iraqi forces against the Persian enemy and reiterated his country's support to Iraq in its just battle to restore its rights.

Mr 'Arar expressed the necessity of holding an extraordinary meeting for the Arab Parliamentary Union to discuss Syrian measures against Iraq.

Head of the Iraqi delegation highly evaluated Jordan's support to Iraq in its battle against Iran.

The meeting was also attended by president of the Senate (House of Notables), Bahjat at-Talhuni and the Iraqi ambassador to Jordan, Ibrahim Shuja'.

The Iraqi delegation arrived here yesterday on a short visit within an Arab tour, as one of several parliamentary delegations to discuss Syrian measures against Iraq.

IRAQI PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION CONCLUDES VISIT

JN291849 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 29 Apr 82

[Excerpt] Sab'awi Ibrahim, head of the Iraqi parliamentary delegation which tonight concluded a visit to Jordan, called for the reconsideration of the financial aid extended to the ruling clique in Syria. He said this aid is used by the Syrian regime to support Iranian aggression against Arab rights and against Iraqi territories.

SENEGALESE PRESIDENTIAL ENVOY ARRIVES 3 MAY

JN031320 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 May 82

[Text] Moustapha Sisse, special adviser to Senegalese President Abdou Diouf, arrived in Amman this morning on a 2-day visit to Jordan during which he will meet His Majesty King Husayn and convey to him a written message from the Senegalese president.

In a statement upon arrival, the Senegalese envoy said his visit comes within the context of consolidating bilateral relations, which are progressing, especially after the brotherly meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and his excellency the Senegalese president on the occasion of the Islamic summit in At-Ta'if last year, the meeting which set the bases for good relations between the two friendly countries in all fields. During their meeting, the two leaders stressed the importance of bolstering Islamic solidarity and activating Arab-African cooperation, which is a continuation of the strong bonds between the African people and the Arab world.

Sisse expressed the Senegalese president's pleasure in accepting the kind invitation of His Majesty King Husayn to visit Jordan and his strong desire to pay this visit, which will be at an appropriate time and will be a good opportunity to consolidate bilateral relations.

EXPLOSIONS IN BEIRUT, SOUTH DAMAGE BUILDINGS

Syrian 'Intelligence Center'

NC040832 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 4 May 82

[Text] There was an explosion at dawn today in the Syrian intelligence center in Shihin township [in southern Lebanon]. Reports indicate that the center, which is located on the third floor of the Munif 'Uwaydat Building, was completely destroyed and considerable material damage was caused to the building. Three persons were wounded. Syrian deterrent forces have cordoned off the area, and an investigation is underway to reveal the culprits.

Islamic Publishing House

NC032047 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 3 May 82

[Text] An explosive device went off in the Hasan Center Building, Al-Mazra'a Cornice, in western Beirut at 1900 today. It was directed at the Islamic printing and publishing house located on the second floor. The explosive device was estimated to consist of 500 grams of TNT. It caused material damage to the offices of the publishing house and shattered the doors of the American Life [Insurance Co], the windows of Yasin's cafeteria and the stores of Mabsut and (Zayft).

RELIGIOUS LEADER KILLED IN 'ALAYH 30 APRIL

NC010702 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 1 May 82

[Text] A new attack on a religious leader took place last night. At 2330 yesterday, armed men assassinated the priest Philip Abu Sulayman, 70, on the road to his house. Armed men, riding in a vehicle, suddenly opened fire on him, killing him instantly. He was removed to Al-Iman Hospital in the city.

GUNMAN STORMS TRIPOLI CHURCH; THREE KILLED

NC021734 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 May 82

[Text] Now, how did the incident occur in Tripoli? According to security sources, the investigation into the Mar Mikhayil Cathedral incident has revealed that the armed man who stormed the cathedral was named Mustafa 'Umar al-Lawz -- a Lebanese who worked in Saudi Arabia and who returned to Lebanon a few days ago. He stormed the cathedral this morning, brandishing a pistol in one hand and holding a grenade in the other. He began firing to hold congregation members hostage in an attempt to ensure the release of his brother, who is being held by an organization. However, the quick arrival of Internal Security Forces at the church and their interception of Al-Lawz confused him, causing the grenade to roll from his hand, explode and kill him, a woman named Kamilah Shibl 'Isa al-Khuri and a child, Rita al-Khuri. Several other persons were wounded, including Katia Khuri, Louis Nakuzi, Najla' al-Fighali, and Anisah al-Khuri.

Al-Wazzan Denounces Attack

NC020923 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 2 May 82

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan has expressed his regret over the incident which occurred in the Maronite Mar Mikhayil Church in Tripoli this morning. He also expressed his great sorrow for the innocent victims and the continuing plot to destroy Lebanon. He said all Lebanese are required now more than at any time in the past to be vigilant and cautious so they and their country will be able to pass over the dangerous, treacherous ground they are traversing.

He added that Lebanon shall continue to exist despite all the incidents designed to fragment it and destroy the unity which has begun to be consolidated among its people.

Lebanese Forces Discuss Attack

NC031833 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 3 May 82

[Statement by the official spokesman of the Lebanese Forces Command Council -- read by announcer]

[Text] The Lebanese Forces Command Council held its weekly meeting, chaired by Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil, in its headquarters, with members in attendance. The council listened to a detailed report on the murder of a priest, Philip Abu Sulayman, in 'Alayh and the massacre at Mar Mikhayil Church in Tripoli.

The council deliberated for a long time on the background of these two crimes and the possible reason they were perpetrated. The Command Council while denouncing these ugly attacks, noted their danger and the danger of their recurrence, for they aim the rejected sectarian character to the war in Lebanon, especially because the suffering of the Lebanese people is caused by the Syrian and Palestinian occupations.

Commenting on this series of terrorist actions against religious leaders and places of worship, the commander of Lebanese forces affirmed that Lebanese resistance will not become involved in this scheme while the identity of the murderers is being investigated and their tendentious schemes exposed.

CLASHES, STRIKES CONTINUE IN BEIRUT, TRIPOLI

NC030926 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 3 May 82

[Text] Some schools, stores and establishments are on strike in the city of Tripoli to protest and denounce the criminal attack on spiritual figures.

Since this morning, marked tension has been reigning in some quarters of western Beirut. The roads of Al-Bastah, Al-Mazra'ah, Al-Musyatibah, Burj Abu Haydar, Hawd al-Wilayah and streets branching from them have been cut off by burning car tires or gunmen. Internal Security Forces cut off the Museum-al-Barbir Road for some time but reopened it later. Bursts of gunfire are heard periodically, while schools have closed to protest the disappearance of three young men who were kidnapped on the Khaldh 'al-Awza'i road.

In the southern suburb, explosions stopped at dawn in the wake of clashes that renewed at midnight last night between members of the Amal movement on one side and Palestinians and communists on the other. The clashes had expanded to the Al-Awza'i area.

BUTRUS SEEKS EXPLANATION OF UK EMBASSY MOVE

NC020754 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 2 May 82

[Text] Foreign Ministry Secretary General Ambassador Kisrawan Labaki will meet with the British ambassador to Lebanon tomorrow to inquire about the truth of newspaper reports that the British Embassy in Beirut will reduce the number of its diplomats. In announcing this, Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus said a statement clarifying the matter will be issued after the meeting.

DEFENSE MINISTER SKAF DISCUSSES U.S. VISIT

NC011927 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 1 May 82

[Text] Speaking on the people's parliament program on the Voice of Lebanon, Defense Minister Joseph Skaf discussed the outcome of his visit to the United States and his talks with several U.S. and UN officials concerning the situation in Lebanon and the area. He said he felt a readiness to help Lebanon and that he returned with impressions varying between optimism and pessimism in relation to the future of the situation in Lebanon.

He said: In my capacity as defense minister, I asked the United States to help the Lebanese Army. I also inquired about the fate of the Lebanese question. I met with several U.S. officials and outlined Lebanon's position as the meeting place of civilization and a strategic international and cultural center. The impression I formed is that Lebanon's question is part of the big Middle East question. The U.S. authorities' attention at the time was focused on the withdrawal from the Sinai. However, they have been working for Lebanon, as was evident when they checked the Israeli attack -- according to Defense Minister Joseph Skaf's statement -- which, Israel intended to wage against the south. What I understood in my meetings is that there is no comprehensive solution for the Lebanese question without solving the area's question. The problem might last many years, according to the views of members of the U.S. House of Representatives. However, the U.S. administration's view differs from that of Congress. I asked of secretary of defense about his stand on Lebanon, and he affirmed Lebanon's integrity, freedom and independence and said it remains to be seen how the United States can help Lebanon.

Regarding the United States' readiness to supply arms to the Lebanese Army, Skaf said: I asked for assistance to the army. The matter is difficult because it requires a special bill from the Senate. Attempts are being made to eliminate obstacles in the way of arming the Lebanese Army.

On his talks at the United Nations, he said: The United Nations understands the Lebanese situation more than Washington. UN officials believe the struggle between the two superpowers affects the Middle East and Lebanon. They believe the UN resolutions are being implemented slowly.

On the Israeli plan to invade the south, Skaf said: The U.S. administration leaked the report, which was true.

About the Lebanese-Israeli armistice commission meeting, Skaf said Israel is rejecting any meeting.

On Philip Habib's return to the area, Skaf said: I talked with Philip Habib by telephone, and he said he is ready to return to the area whenever he is asked.

Asked if he expects a quiet presidential election, Skaf replied: This depends on the Lebanese people. The Lebanese should agree among themselves and renounce rancor, because it is in the interest of all that elections be conducted freely and democratically.

INFORMATION MINISTER COMMENTS ON CURRENT ISSUES

JN040929 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 4 May 82

[Text] Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad has asserted that Syria's domestic front is very solid and can never be harmed by anyone. He added in an interview with AL-MAWQIF AL-'ARABI magazine that the Syrians, under the leadership of the Ba'th Party and President Hafiz al-Asad, have managed to build modern Syria and to purge our society of criminals and saboteurs.

The information minister said Syria will never be driven to positions that contravene its principles and wishes nor will it allow anyone to ignore its role in the Arab region to which Syria belongs. He added: We want to take hold of our fate and to always take the initiative.

The information minister said: Our strategic relations with the Soviet Union are strong and are developing continuously. He added: The scope of our cooperation and friendship with the Soviet Union is very wide. We are developing our relations in order to be strong enough to deter every aggression. He said: Under no circumstances should those hostile to Syria be brought together with those hostile to Israel and the United States. Those hostile to Syria are trying to find the pretexts to adopt defeatism and to facilitate the implementation of Israel's expansionist designs in the Arab world.

The information minister asserted that the closure of the Syrian-Iraqi border is a temporary measure meant to protect our citizens, who were victims of booby-trapped cars sent by the Iraqi regime, from Hann. He explained the Jordanian regime's motives in aggravating relations with Syria, asserting that Syria wants to protect Lebanon -- land and people -- and that Syria is encouraging the national charter as being the sole solution of the Lebanese crisis.

The information minister said the Camp David course has reached a dead end, adding that Syria wagers only on the Egyptian people and their future. He asserted that the price for Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai was the occupation of the Egyptian will and Egypt's subugation to the Zionist expansionist will. He added that what Israel has given in land has been regained by the MFO and that Husni Mubarak has accepted his role as a political factor implementing the designs of others.

The information minister said the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front takes credit for confronting the Camp David accords and As-Sadat's political course. This front, he added, is playing a leading role in defending the Arab nation's presence. This course was enhanced by the convocation of the summit conference in 1978, when Arab countries adopted this course. However, this did not revoke the role of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front. The front has been strengthened by the Arab countries' adoption of its principles, which are defending our Arab nation's future. Contacts have never stopped and will never stop between the front's partners and on the various levels. The visits exchanged among leaders of the front's states and the meetings of the foreign ministers and the progressive national parties of the front's states have all verified that the front remains strong and active. Contacts are currently underway to hold a Steadfastness and Confrontation Front summit.

In conclusion, Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad said: This is our position: self-confidence, confidence in the future, a strong economy, the ability to move toward our objectives, unwavering and bold in expressing our stands and ideas. This stage, he added, is one of struggling with fate. We Syrians, led by Ba'th Party and the historic leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, want to take hold of our fate and continuously take the initiative.

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD FIGURE COMMENTS ON GROUP

JN031141 [Editorial report] Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic at 1845 GMT on 2 May 1982 carries a 2-hour videotape of an "interview" in the form of one long, uninterrupted statement by Khalid ash-Shami, a Muslim Brotherhood leader in Syria. In this statement, Ash-Shami, who, he says, joined the organization in 1955 at the age of 13, relates his role in Muslim Brotherhood activities since 1979. He says these activities led up to the showdown with Syrian authorities in the Hamah incidents in February 1982.

Ash-Shami begins by saying that since 1979, he has made several visits to Amman to see his sister, who was married to Ahmad al-Jammal, a member of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan. During these visits to Amman, he was introduced to the Muslim Brotherhood's "external leadership" comprising Dr Hasan Huwaydi, controller general; 'Adnan Sa'd ad-Din, deputy controller general; 'Ali Bayanuni, officer in charge of military affairs; and Sa'id Hawwa, member.

After several visits, Ash-Shami adds, the external leadership appointed him liaison officer in view of his wide contacts with and knowledge of the Syrian public. His job, he says was to relay messages between the external leadership and the "internal leadership," comprising: 'Adnan 'Uqlah in Aleppo and Hisham Jimbaz in Hamah. Later, Jimbaz was killed and succeeded by two other leaders. Ash-Shami says the Hamah leadership also had the cooperation of Brig Gen Taysir Lutfi, a Syrian Army officer. He says he met with the general, who gave him brief and sketchy messages to the external leadership in Amman. According to Ash-Shami, the general's messages showed complete ignorance of the Muslim Brotherhood following in Hamah. Still, the external leadership was interested in those messages. It was then, he says, that he discovered that the leadership was passing those messages to Jordanian intelligence.

Ash-Shami says that during his assignment he relayed a message to the external leadership from the Hamah leadership for "funds, men and weapons." The reply he received was that the Hamah leadership could get the funds and the men, but the weapons would be a problem. Later, Ash-Shami says, arrangements were made by the Aleppo leader 'Uqlah to obtain weapons "through Iraq." Ash-Shami says he also learned that the entire external leadership had visited Iraq and met with President Saddam Husayn.

Ash-Shami devotes most of his 2-hour statement to highlighting the Muslim Brotherhood's operations and analyzing the mentalities of its leaders to show that "it is a criminal" organization with little following in Syria and that its leaders are only concerned about their own personal interests.

Ash-Shami concludes his statement by admitting his past mistakes and pleading for clemency from President Hafiz al-Asad. On the whole, Ash-Shami does not say much other than to reiterate old Syrian accusations about the Muslim Brotherhood's links with the Jordanian and Iraq regimes.

BULGARIAN CP DELEGATION ARRIVES IN DAMASCUS

JN031450 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 3 May 82

[Text] Stanko Georgiev Todorov, member of the Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP] Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Bulgarian National Assembly, arrived in Damascus this afternoon. He heads a parliamentary delegation on a 5-day official visit to Syria at the invitation of People's Assembly Speaker Mahud az-Zu'bi. Az-Zu'bi headed those who welcomed Todorov and his delegation at the airport.

Az-Zu'bi welcomed Todorov and his delegation and expressed great appreciation for the stands of the Bulgarian Government party, people and front toward the just Arab causes. He praised current bilateral relations of friendship and cooperation in all fields whose foundations were laid down by the two leaders, President Hafiz al-Asad and Chairman Todor Khristov Zhivkov, on the basis of mutual understanding and cooperation to achieve the aims of the Syrian and bulgarian peoples in economic and social achievement, confronting imperialism, Zionism and reaction and supporting world liberation causes.

Stanko Georgiev Todorov said: We convey the greetings of Chairman Zhivkov, the BCP Central Committee, members of the National Assembly and the Bulgarian people to president Hafiz al-Asad, the Ba'th Party command, People's Assembly members and the Syrian people. He said he hopes this visit will fulfill its expected good results, particularly at the parliamentary level. He praised Syria's struggle, under President Hafiz al-Asad, toward building socialism and economic and social development in Syria and confronting imperialist, Zionist and reactionary provocations, designs and conspiracies. He asserted Bulgaria's support for this struggle and its support for the just Arab causes and the Palestinian peoples' struggle to regain their legitimate rights, including the right to self-determination and to establish their state on their soil.

JOINT PALESTINIAN-SYRIAN COMMITTEE MEETS 3 MAY

JN031540 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in English 1500 GMT 3 May 82

[Text] The joint Palestinian-Syrian committee made up of delegations of Fatah and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party resumed tis meetings in Damascus this morning with the aim of preparing a framework of joint strategy to confront the Zionist enemy and imperialist challenges. The Palestinian side was headed by Fatah Central Committee member Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], the Syrian side by Foreign Minister and Deputy Premier 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. Another meeting will be held this evening at the Syrian Foreign Ministry, which is to be attended by the leaders of the factions of the Palestinian revolution. During these meetings, the discussions on the strategic framework proposal of last week are expected to be completed.

KHADDAM MEETS WITH PLO'S QADDUMI, GHUNAYM

JN011948 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 1 May 82

[Text] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received this morning Faruq Qaddumi, alias Abu al-Lutf, head of the PLO Political Department, and Muhammad Ghunaym, alias Abu Mahir, Fatah Central Committee member. They discussed current Arab and international affairs and the outcome of the UN General Assembly debate on the Palestinian cause.

PRIME MINISTER BEGIN ADDRESSES KNESSET OPENING

TA031528 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1408 GMT 3 May 82

[Address by Prime Minister Menahem Begin at the opening of the Knesset's summer session -- live]

[Text] Mr Speaker, ladies and gentlemen members of the Knesset. Israel has fulfilled its commitments as per the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel both in substance and on time. It is my duty to report to the Knesset, and through it to the public at large, that in the last few weeks prior to the third anniversary of the exchange of the peace treaty ratification documents there were violations both of the peace treaty and of the Camp David accords; difficulties and obstacles arose.

These violations not only gave us the right, but also obligated us to consider the possibility of postponing the date on which we were to withdraw our forces from the Ra's Muhammad-al-'Arish line, which is beyond Israel's international border, should the violations not be corrected. We informed both our friends in the United States and our friends in Egypt of this right and duty -- not through hints, but explicitly; not indirectly not straightforwardly.

There is no point in elaborating on the negative developments of those days; rather, it is of those days; rather, it is better to concentrate on the positive aspects and on the future. In the messages from Egyptian President Mubarak, dated 16 and 20 April 1982, we received explicit commitments that the smuggling of arms, explosives and other warfare materiel from Egyptian territory into Israeli territory will be prevented and that the security arrangements in the demilitarized zone, stretching some 150 km from the international border into the Sinai, will be faithfully adhered to, as will the provisions for the thinning-out zone. These security arrangements are the very soul of the peace treaty and should therefore be fulfilled faithfully and with absolute scrupulousness.

President Mubarak -- with whom I met on the bitter eve of the funeral of President as-Sadat, who signed the peace treaty, as Mubarak, Anwar as-Sadat's successor, and myself were extending our hands to one another, saying at the same time; peace forever -- wrote to me in his message of 20 April the following: Upon signing the historic peace treaty on 26 March 1979, we left behind a letter containing a commitment to conduct negotiations -- constantly and in good faith with the objective of completing them as soon as possible. The purpose of these negotiations has been established as follows: to reach agreement in advance of the elections on the modalities of establishing the self-governing authority, the administrative council, of increasing its authority and spheres of jurisdiction and other pertinent problems. Our intention, President Mubarak wrote, is to continue to conduct negotiations with you, with the help of the United States as full partner, until we obtain an agreement [heskem].

In my reply to his congratulatory message on our Independence Day, I thanked President Mubarak for this commitment, it being the most important part of the first part of the Camp David accords. I also suggested that he set as soon as possible [the date for] the resumption of the negotiations over full autonomy for the Arab inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza District and concentrate particularly on the election, establishment and activation of the self-governing authority, the administrative council.

Naturally, these negotiations must take place in the capitals of the three nations participating in it. An Israeli delegation would gladly go either to Cairo or to Washington, provided the Egyptian and U.S. delegations come to Jerusalem for talks. It is unthinkable, Mr Speaker, for us to accept the boycott of Jerusalem, our capital, as one of the three venues for the negotiations.

The President of the United States, Mr Ronald Reagan, wrote to me on 20 April 1982, among other things, the following: As you know, the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel and the Camp David accords are the central elements of my administration's security policy for the region. Thus, it is a distinct security interest of the United States to make sure the peace treaty is faithfully observed and honored, and that any deviation from it by any party will be looked into and corrected. I am committed to this goal.

The U.S. President also wrote: Israel's ability to guarantee its self-defense is a vital U.S. interest. Therefore, as I have announced before, I am determined to maintain Israel's qualitative-technological advantage. I have also noted your concerns over the quantitative situation and its effect on Israel's security.

Needless to say, Mr Prime Minister, the fulfillment of the agreements between the United States and Israel, particularly since 1973 in connection with the peace process, will continue to constitute a main aspect of our policy.

Furthermore, the resolution of the Palestinian problem is also a security interest of ours. You, President Mubarak and myself agree that the Camp David framework is the only agreed upon plan for the solution of this problem. This is why the United States remains committed to make the best of efforts to reach a speedy, successful completion of the negotiations for full autonomy for the self-governing authority, the administrative council and for the Palestinian inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza, as stipulated in the Camp David accords.

This letter from the U.S. President, Mr Speaker, contains -- as all the members of the Knesset may see for themselves -- important commitments by the United States to Israel in the areas of politics and defense alike. With the permission of the speaker, I would now like to express, from our parliamentary dais, my gratitude to President Reagan for having made these commitments and for renewing them. Obviously....

[MK Tawfiq Tubi interrupts with indistinct remarks]

Obviously, everything will be determined in the field itself. Our eyes are wide open. Both our U.S. and our Egyptian friends know full well that Israel will never accept any violations of the peace treaty and the Camp David accords. Just as we fulfilled our commitments despite the difficulties, the painful sacrifices, the great risks, so are we justified in demanding and expecting the other party to fulfill faithfully and scrupulously its commitments as per these two international agreements -- namely the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel and the Camp David accords regarding full autonomy for the Arab inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza District. If these commitments are honored by one party, this will lead to their being honored by the other party, too; if, heaven forbid, they are not honored, this will lead to the appropriate, swift reaction in accordance with the acceptable rules of international law.

I must make it clear that we prefer the first alternative -- that is, that there be mutual and complete fulfillment of all the stipulations of the agreement.

We pledged ourselves to establish autonomy, not a Palestinian state in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. Under no circumstances will we accept such a state. We promised autonomy, not self-determination which means only one thing: a state. This single interpretation was corroborated by the person who, until a few weeks ago when the serious conflict broke out over the Falkland Islands, was the British foreign secretary; Lord Carrington. I asked him, when he last visited Jerusalem, why the British advocate the establishment of a Palestinian state. I said. It will undermine our security, not yours; it will constitute a danger to our existence, not to yours; it will not be Britons but Jews who will be killed. To these sincere, just and right claims, the foreign secretary replied: We have never said a Palestinian state, we have always used the term self-determination.

To this I responded: Self-determination means a state. And Lord Carrington, for his part, commented very honestly: That is true.

Certainly this is true, and we cannot afford to play with nice yet misleading words because what we are talking about is our very existence and the well-being of our children and their safety. We [word indistinct] rejected him during all 13 days of the deliberations at the Camp David summit. To sum up: autonomy -- yes; a Palestinian state, whether overtly or under verbal disguise -- under no circumstances. That is why we wrote in the government policy's basic guidelines, approved by the Knesset on the fifth day of the month of Ab 5741, 5 August 1981: The autonomy agreed upon at Camp David is not sovereignty or self-determination. The autonomy arrangements agreed upon at Camp David are a guarantee that under no circumstances will a Palestinian state be established in the areas of western Eretz Yisra'el. Later, it says at the end of the interim period stipulated in the Camp David agreements, Israel will demand and will take action toward realizing its right of sovereignty over Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza District. It was further stated in the ninth article of the basic guidelines: Settlement in Eretz Yisra'el is a right and an inalienable part of the nation's safety. The government will take action to strengthen the settlements, expand this drive and develop it. The government will continue to maintain the rule that Jewish settlements will not deprive anyone of his land, village or town.

In regard to article eight of the basic guidelines, Mr Speaker, I come here to proclaim -- with the consent of the entire Cabinet -- that as soon as, one day, our national sovereignty is applied to Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza District, we will maintain and observe full autonomy for the Arab inhabitants of these parts of Eretz Yisra'el in the tripartite negotiations which, one could assume, will resume soon. [MK Tawfiq Tubi again interrupts with heckling]

Mr Speaker, everyone would agree that, after nearly a year, this is my maiden speech from this podium. And there is a rule for maiden speeches. Similarly, there is no need to explain that in any future negotiations over the signing of a peace treaty between Israel and its neighbors any suggestion that one of the settlements in which Israeli citizens and Jewish people have settled and live be removed or withdrawn will be rejected. This is the original suggestion of education and culture minister, my friend and colleague Zvulun Hammer, and I am pleased to inform the Knesset the entire Cabinet endorsed it.

Mr Speaker, ladies and gentelmen members of the Knesset. Yesterday the Cabinet also decided that after a special ministerial committee sets up a timetable for further arrangements [hesderim] after the minimum period of 3 months, there will no longer be Saturday flights by El Al aircraft.

[Interjection by MK Shulamit Aloni, who asks when electricity will also be shut down on the Sabbath]

What is all the anger about? This is what the Cabinet decided. Is the rabbi also opposed to this? Is Rabbi Hakohen also against this? This is not the chief rabbinate! [words indistinct] Do you think you will interrupt my words? [Addressing MK Jacques Amir]. Jacques, in Domana you did not behave like this! Does Madame Aloni think that with her interjections she will deprive me of my right to speak? No? So please sit down quietly.

One could say, Mr Speaker, this resolution is nothing but a repetition of the famous term of status quo, as proved by the statements made in 1939 of [name indistinct], who said on 9 Tammuz 5769, 25 June 1969, and I quote: The El Al company will now, as before, act out of respect for the practiced status quo in regard to transportation on the Sabbath, even though this causes El Al substantial financial losses and problems in management and operation and puts the company in a position of inferiority vis-a-vis other airplanes operating on international routes, which are in a bitter competition with it. Still El Al will not maintain regular flights on the Sabbath from the Lod [Ben Gurion] Airport or accept incoming flights there.

This is what Mr Karmel, then transportation minister, said: Regular flights do not take off or land unless security considerations demand it; and unfortunately I cannot [word indistinct] examples. That is the end of the quote from Mr Karmel, the former transportation minister.

I know Mr Karmel, and I am sure his remarks were sincere. One cannot imagine that a man like him would deliberately mislead the Knesset and the public. However, if this is the case, there can be only one conclusion: When the time came, in later years, the transportation minister's promise was broken and El Al continued to fly on the Sabbath and Jewish holidays for some 13 years, contrary to the explicit commitment of the transportation minister, not for security reasons but for commercial and material purposes only.

[Indistinct interjection by MK Shulamit Aloni]

Why are you shouting? You have such a piercing voice. Why are you angry? Speak quietly. I would waive the respect on the hecklers' part, but let them not interrupt. As I said, this was done not for defense purposes, but for commercial and material objectives only, and this is why it hurts. Should we, in the renewed Jewish state, in the rejuvenated Jewish state, use the measuring stick of monetary gain or loss? Is this how we value the religious, national, social, historic and moral value of the Sabbath for Israel? Forty years ago I returned [words indistinct]

[Indistinct interjection by MK Yosi Sarid]

Brace yourself. I will proceed and finish speaking. Nothing doing. I cannot hear you, nor do I want to reply to you. I have nothing to say to someone who supports a Palestinian state in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. I have nothing to say to you, I have finished with you. If you do not support one, then sit down quietly.

What does the rabbi want? [to MK Menahem Hakohen] Does he want us to fly on the Sabbath? I will complete my statement. I will not respond to you. I cannot hear you. Why mention the fact that this is a prime minister speaking? I am a Knesset member. I would like to announce that I will not respond to MK Sarid with even one word; and he can shout and cry until tomorrow. I will finish my statement.

Forty years ago I returned to Eretz Yisra'el from the Diaspora. I can still remember, as though it was only yesterday or the day before, the life of millions of simple Jews, who supported families in that miserable diaspora where hatred for Jews was rampant and an attempt was made with the help of the state to deprive them of their means of livelihood. In those days and in those diasporas the Jews were not allowed to observe the Sabbath and open their businesses on Sundays. They were forced to observe the Christian day of rest, the first day of the week. And how did those millions of Jews behave?

[Words indistinct, apparently heckling by MK Yosi Sarid]

Such impudence! I am talking about our forefathers and you dare to stop me? Shame on you! They rested 2 days a week: One day by rule of the authority and on the seventh day because they observed the commandment: Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy. They lost money, plenty of money, and forfeited part of their means of sustenance and in some cases they even had to give up part of their daily bread, and yet they observed the Sabbath as they were told to.

In the diaspora there was a main city with a big Jewish community, called Salonika, where most port hands were Jewish.

Again, the dockhands [words indistinct] examples and add more. The facts are known to all of us. After all, the Sabbath, the day of rest, is one of the finest values of human culture. The idea is originally ours, entirely unique to us, but we bequeathed it to all the other nations, and even to all regimes. We are an ancient people [words indistinct].

All right, let us look at some histories of some other ancient peoples: In Egypt, a great culture developed whose treasures we can still see to this day. However, the early Egyptians did not have a day of rest. In Greece, art and philosophy developed, from which all people learned; and the great philosopher Maimonides was a disciple of Aristotle. The Greeks had no problems. The large armies [words indistinct]; it activated and implemented law and order which is the foundation of European law. Yet they did not have a day of rest during the week. Thus, in the cultures of Assyria, Babylonia, Persia, India and China, only one nation -- one nation alone -- was sought by the Lord, and he found it. A tiny nation heard and saw the voices saying remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your manservant, or your maidservant, or your cattle or the sojourner who is within your gates; so that your manservant and maidservant may rest like you. How did this notion become part of the entire human race's creed?

[Indistinct heckling by MK Yosi Sarid]

Do you even have to stop me while reciting the Ten Commandments? Braggart! This will not help. Give someone else a chance.

Immediately after the November 1917 revolution, the communist regime tried to set a floating day of rest for various plants, but this attempt failed and it, too, reverted to a single day of rest, a fixed day, which is the [word indistinct] in the week. Therefore, one should again point out that the original idea of the people of Israel was borrowed by all the nations of the world, regardless of their faiths or regimes. The idea is basically social and moral. It was intended for the ancient servant, for the free laborer in our days, for the pauper. The rich can rest any day. There are some called idle rich [last two words in English], who do not need the law of the Sabbath. So who does need it? This question was clearly answered, as I cited it: so that your manservant and maidservant may rest like you. This is the deep, Jewish and human, national and universal implication of the Sabbath.

[Heckling by Alignment members asking why the cessation of El Al flights on the Sabbath was not implemented in the last 5 years that Mr Begin was in power; MK Tawfiq Tubi asks why shooting is allowed on the Sabbath; this raises a commotion in the hall]

This will be of no use. You are obstructing [last word in English] and your speaker can also experience the same. I will finish my statement as I prepared it.

The Jewish state, I ask you, should it desecrate its Sabbath? According to our faith -- we all heard the voices -- we should accept a fact that is in face an announcement addressed to the other nations of the world saying remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy. Forget the Sabbath day? I will not lie to you when I say to you that each time I remember that in all the hundreds of Sabbath's that have elapsed since Mr Karmel made his commitments, El Al aircraft flew here on the seventh day of the week, took off and landed for all to see, Israel and the nations and the world alike.

Before the Cabinet decided this, as well as after that, we also heard threats, but we will not take them into account. We are sure of our justness in passing this important resolution and we have proved that threats cannot determine, in a democracy such as ours, the Cabinet's or the Knesset's decisions. However, the good workers of El Al -- and some of them are fighters, and excellent employees -- to them I would like to address some heartfelt words.

We cannot balance gains and losses in the context of the people of Israel's eternal value, for which our forefathers forfeited their lives -- the Sabbath. However, if you pledge to the El Al company a few years of labor peace, El Al will no longer experience deficits subsidized, in fact, by the taxpayer -- including the frequent demands for wage increases raised with the help of industrial action and strikes. It is my duty to again say that El Al is not laid idle over bread, [does not strike over basic necessities], and precisely so during the busy tourist seasons. If you make do with your standard of living -- which is not the lowest among workers in Israel, and that is an understatement -- then El Al will again be put on the right course and maintain itself in 6 days of labor and flight. But everyone would agree that it is not a material issue or else the Egged buses would run on the Sabbath, as would the railway, on the 7th day. However, the country should not, Mr Speaker, do this. We have all decided that while we will never, under any circumstances, intervene in the private individual's affairs, public services will nonetheless not be operated on the Sabbath and the Jewish holidays. The national airline is, in the fullest sense of the term, a public service and cannot desecrate the Sabbath. One need not be religious to accept this position. If Jew is a nationalist, he will accept it. Remember (?what happened to) [words indistinct] when only national values [words indistinct]. It is not necessary to be a Zionist or an orthodox Jew in order to sense the value of the Sabbath.

On that occasion, one of the community leaders said -- and he is right -- that anyone who feels deeply a tie and link with the national history throughout the generations would never, even if he does not believe in the next world or the Jewish state, conceive the people of Israel without a Sabbath. It would not be an overstatement to say that more than Israel observed the Sabbath, it watched over them. [Words indistinct] to the lowest rung of materialism and moral and intellectural abyss. Therefore, one need not be a Zionist to comprehend the historic glow of sanctity that sheds a halo over this good gift [the Sabbath] and come up in arms against anyone who dares harm it.

Mr Speaker, ladies and gentlemen members of the Knesset. On the Friday, the 7th day of the month of Iyyar 5742, 30 April 1982, I received the following letter: I wish to inform you of my resignation from the Cabinet for personal reasons. I would like to thank you for the cooperation and understanding we have had during that period. Signed, Aharon Abu-Hatzera

The resignation of Minister Aharon Abu-Hatzera was effective Sunday, the 9th day of Iyyar 5742, 2 May 1982, in accordance with the Basic Law of the government. I would like today, on behalf of the members of the Cabinet, to bid farewell to our colleague Aharon Abu-Hatzera, note his dedicated work as a member of the government in the posts he held, and wish him success in the appeal he has submitted to show his innocence and emerge from the trial, which he has yet to face, not guilty. The Cabinet received the letter of resignation with great understanding, as will most probably [words indistincg].

On that Friday, I received another letter signed by Aharon Abu-Hatzera, the chairman of the TAMI movement, which read as follows: I would like to inform you that last night the TAMI executive elected Mr Aharon Uzan as the candidate to serve as minister of labor, social welfare and immigrant absorption on behalf of TAMI. I would be grateful to you if you would bring his appointment to the Cabinet and the Knesset for approval.

In its session on Sunday, the Cabinet decided to include MK Aharon Uzan into the Cabinet and entrust him with the posts of minister of labor, social welfare and immigrant absorption. On behalf of the Cabinet, I wish Minister Uzan success in fulfilling his important jobs. We are convinced the Knesset will also approve this decision of the Cabinet.

I thank the speaker and all the members of the Knesset for their attentiveness.

LABOR PARTY'S PERES ADDRESSES KNESSET OPENING

TA031657 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1444 GMT 3 May 82

[Address by Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres at the opening of the Knesset's summer session -- live]

[Text] Mr Speaker, Knesset members, the Knesset summer session should have opened with us looking toward the future. Instead, it has opened with discussions of the past. The prime minister's announcement about the rejection of any proposal to remove Jewish settlements originates, in my opinion, in a guilty conscience about the evacuation of the settlements in the Sinai and does not serve as a good compass for future negotiations. The difference between the Alignment's and the Likud's proposals is like the difference between the willingness to tell the nation the truth and the attempt to conceal it or distort it.

I would like to say to the initiator of this proposal, my friend Minister Hammer, and to those who will vote for it: Pay attention to what you are doing from your own viewpoint. In every 'yes' there is heard a 'no' because settlements -- yes, sovereignty -- no. It is true that you will oppose the removal of the settlements, but the Camp David agreements make it incumbent that the permanent status of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip be determined through negotiations -- and I quote -- between Egypt, Israel, Jordan and the elected representatives of the inhabitants of the territories. The negotiations will begin at the end of 3 years of autonomy and be founded -- this must not be forgotten -- on Security Council Resolution 242, and they will determine the borders and the security arrangements. You also signed something else: The results of those negotiations must also recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinians and their just demands.

The government, in my view, could have postponed that issue for several years, but what it is doing out of the pain of the past is to actually confirm what it wanted to prevent -- that is, that it is distinguishing between the problem of the settlements and that of sovereignty. You have again put in doubt the sovereignty over all the territories.

Why is the government doing this? In my opinion, in order to wash its hands of the Sinai matter. It made so many promises, it was so content with contradictions between words and deeds. It acted so often without a plan or strategy in the negotiations that now it is trying to pave a road of confusion between it and the Sinai, to set up a smokescreen behind which it will be able to rewrite history.

What are the promises the government scattered? First of all, in his first speech in the Knesset, on 28 December 1977, Prime Minister Begin said, and I am quoting: In the rules for establishing relations between Egypt and Israel, it is promised that the Israeli settlements will remain in their places as they are. Notice that this is almost the same declaration the prime minister is proposing now for Judaea and Samaria. That was in 1977 with regard to the Sinai; now it is with regard to Judaea and Samaria.

A month later, Mr Begin wrote to the Yamit inhabitants' action committee, and I quote again: I wish to promise you your safety, the safety of your children and the continuation of your settlement on your land as an inseparable part of the nation of Israel and its state. Promise number two on the same issue.

Mr Hammer, what good did it do? That very same day the prime minister said he would resign if he had to concede the settlements. In an argument with one of the Knesset members, he said: You can support the removal of settlements, but the government will fall, because I will express no confidence in myself. Promise number three.

And, finally, Mr Begin announced -- apparently on the model of David Ben-Gurion of blessed memory, who had moved to live in Sde Boker -- that he would go live in Ne'ot Sinai. Promise number four.

Knesset members, people from the settlements, what remains of all those promises? The dust of bulldozers, a bitter taste. Promises have been unkept in the vacuum of our world. And let us bear in mind that then, too, he was speaking about peace. Mr Corfu, I must tell you, I admired you on the radio. You demonstrated a democratic rule, that the speaker must adapt himself to the audience, and you gave an example -- when the Herut ministers appeared before Herut representatives, they made one speech. If they had been appearing like that, he said, before Herut women, they would have made a different speech. I propose sending Mr Levi, Mr Shamir and Mr Sharon to speak only to women, other people. [indistinct Knesset heckling] I accept the correction willingly. I am precise, the contents are very precise.

Let us admit in our hearts that it is doubtful if it was really necessary to evacuate those settlements. Mr Corfu, if the negotiations had been conducted over peace, too, in a planned way [indistinct interjection]. That doubt originates, among other things, in the evidence provided by one of the main participants in those negotiations, the person who was then defense minister -- 'Ezer Weizman -- and I quote from his book. The pleasant surprise, Weizman writes, was the one Al-Jamasi saved until the end. He said that he would have no objection to leaving the Israeli settlements in the Rafah approaches under UN supervision, and those along the coasts of the Shlomo Gulf under the supervision of an Egyptian governor.

Why did this not occur? To this, Mr Weizman replies further on in his book, and I quote: It appears to me that if we had acted wisely and with generosity in the period of time at our disposal from As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem to Camp David, and if we had opened our hearts to peace, we could have -- so Weizman writes -- received more and given less. And he adds: At the beginning the Egyptians were much less intransigent on the matter of the Rafah settlements and the airfields. And Weizman adds: Begin's intransigence and that of some of his colleagues, their ambivalent attitude toward peace and the tendency to detail it into clauses and subclauses created a chain reaction among the Egyptians. In fact, Mr Weizman says that we could have prevented everything we have seen over this last month. However, as I said, Mr Begin promised one thing and did the opposite.

On the first evening of As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem, the president of Egypt understood that the prime minister agreed to an Israeli withdrawal to the international border without setting conditions. Afterward, a ridiculous proposal was made that the settlements should remain until 2001 and then a determination would be made. Finally, at Camp David it was agreed specifically to evacuate them before the Knesset had agreed. By the way, the person who recommended that move is the current defense minister.

Mr Menahem Begin is trying to deny that chain of events. He is trying to place the responsibility on the Knesset. He himself, so it now emerges, would have voted against the evacuation of the settlements had it been a vote in the Knesset. If that is true, why did the prime minister not come forward and tell this to the nation? Is this something trivial? Why did he hide his opinion from the Knesset, the nation represented in the Knesset? [indistinct heckling from Knesset benches] I want to ask, Yig'al [words indistinct because of shouting] Moshe, drop it....I want to say....Knesset members, I want to ask you: If Mr Menahem Begin had come to you, or to us and said that a decision could be made by voting [more indistinct heckling; the radio announcer explains that Begin called out that he had proposed that].

On 29, on 21 September 1978 -- do not shout -- immediately after Camp David, I sent a letter, I sent a letter to the prime minister in which I asked him a clear question. I will quote from the letter I wrote to Mr Begin: On the one hand, the agreement was presented in one context and from it it is now impossible to negate any clause whatsoever; so there must be a vote for or against, and this is while one of the clauses refers to the government's agreement to concede a defensible border with Egypt and requires the evacuation of the Rafah District settlements.

On the other hand, they propose, for a separate discussion, the clause on the buffer zone in the Rafah District, including the removal of the settlements involved in this. Your clarification is required, I wrote to him. Either a separation is possible or it is impossible, and a comprehensive, detailed decision is needed. This clarification is essential in order for us to determine our position on the arrangements for the deliberations, by a Knesset decision. One minute -- this morning I received a reply from Mr Begin, who wrote to me that the letter had indeed reached his office, but not him.

But even without the letter, Mr Begin, you invite me from time to time -- could you not invite me on a matter as vital as the evacuation of settlements, and say: You are entitled to vote against it? [indistinct heckling] If Mr Begin is opposed to the evacuation of settlements, he should have insisted on this at Camp David. He should have said so in public, here in the Knesset, directly without the smokescreen.

What did you say in the Knesset? I will quote what you said in the Knesset. I am now quoting your words in the Knesset on 27 September 1978, 5 days after my own letter. I quote Mr Begin: There was a second possibility concerning what to tell President Carter: We say no, we will not agree to remove settlements. Then the Camp David conference, Mr Begin said, would have broken up that same day. Further on, Mr Begin said: Here are the scales. That is what he said from this podium. [shouting from Likud benches, Begin's voice can be heard, the Knesset speaker asks for silence] One one side [of the scales] -- I am quoting from what Mr Begin said -- we put the peace treaty and on the other, the settlements. The scales, according to the rules of morality in which I believe, would tip toward the peace treaty. There is no other way. He added, and I believe the sentiment included in this sentence: To my last day I will believe this is the correct choice.

[Heckling from Likud benches]

Have you any views on how to conduct an opposition? Come and conduct it.

[Indistinct interjection by Begin]

And Mr Begin asked, in the name of the Cabinet, that the Knesset allow the Cabinet to decide, and I am quoting again -- you cannot distort history with shouts; Mr Begin, Katzele, please do not interrupt -- and Mr Begin asked in the name of the Cabinet the following: That if, in negotiations over the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel, all the problems involved in that treaty were to be settled, the Knesset authorizes the Cabinet to remove the settlers from the Sinai and to resettle them. I am saying these things not in order to describe what has occurred, but in order to warn of what could happen if the Cabinet's current proposal is accepted. This really is a government of lofty words which carries a sword of contradictions in its hands; a government which, the greater its promises, the more it breaks them. Please, Likud members, be more modest, a little more exact in what you say. Please be more considered, a little more sophisticated and planned in actions, because the more glorious the words, the gloomier were the deeds.

To this day, Mr Prime Minister, and you must reply, we have not reacted to things done in the evacuation of the Sinai and its surroundings. Now I want to ask you questions, one by one: Why did you establish 15 imaginary settlements in the Sinai? One. Why did you establish 'Atzmona and put it in a book, as one of your settlement campaigns, after it was decided to evacuate the Sinai? Why did you not decide on one team to conduct negotiations over compensation for the settlers in order to avoid causing them unnecessary suffering? Why did you not decide on replacement settlements for the settlers?

These are legitimate questions from the Knesset podium. Why did you not put on trial people who fought our soldiers -- soldiers who behaved superbly, and I join in the congratulations to the commanders and to all those who were responsible for that campaign: We were all proud of our soldiers. And, finally, why did you destroy Yamit?

Why did you try to prevent full press coverage there, during the evacuation? The last two things are especially painful. I am certain all members of the house, from the left or the right, without any difference of faction or party, are interested in Israel being an enlightened country and appearing to be an enlightened country. Are the bulldozers the symbol of enlightenment? And who, in fact, made the decision to destroy Yamit?

Mr Prime Minister, when you say that you do not want to reply to that, we understand that it was not you and it was not the Cabinet, but does this prevent the Egyptians from reestablishing such a settlement? This government has no patience with the media. [indistinct Begin interjection] Anyone who listened to it [the government] could get the impression that it is the media that makes the confused decisions and the government's role is to cover up for the media, or to cover it up. How did the poet phrase it? Freedom is not under ground. Freedom is not hidden. Everyone must know that you are free.

The history of the wars in Israel and their results is the history of a clash between the only democratic country in the Middle East and countries all of which are undemocratic and which attacked us. I believe that the lack of democracy played a part in the downfall of the Arabs, just as the existence of democracy played a part in the victory of the Jews. Perhaps the definite proof of that is the 6-Day war. The Egyptian commander of the air force did not tell An-Nasir that his force had already been destroyed in the first hours of the war. On the contrary, he told him that he was about to win any minute. Husayn, who was not well-informed of the truth either, believed An-Nasir and got involved in the war. The lack of truth contributed to no small extent to the downfall of Egypt and Jordan.

We never concealed anything from the nation, and the truth -- however bitter -- in our view makes the nation stronger, rather than weaker. Moreover, truth has no censors. The fact is that, in the end, the coverage of the Sinai evacuation also put psychological pressure on those who wanted to stop the withdrawal not to raise their voices against the IDF, and on the extremists among them not to raise their hands against the IDF. The same applies to the Golan Heights. Why was it necessary to blockade the Druze inhabitants of the Golan Heights and to bar the press from reporting on that blockade? [shouting by Likud members, followed by shouting by the opposition] Was anything concealed in the Yom Kipper war? Did it not create a host of wild rumors? Does the fate of the Golan Heights -- Jacques, please do not interfere, let them -- does the fate of the Golan Heights depend on the agreement or refusal of the Druze to accept identification cards? If they accept them, will the Golan Heights be more Israeli? And if they do not accept them, will it be less Israeli?

The prime minister spoke on Independence Day about the importance of the Jewish mind. What is a Jewish mind? A mind that uses applause or a mind that uses intellect to analyze the truth. The Jewish nation, Knesset members, is a nation of questions; it is not a conformist nation, it is a nation with wide horizons and clear views; it is not a nation of hypocrisy, of flattering, of burnt offerings, of false gods, of concealing the hard truth because it is hard. The verse: Tell it not in gath was correct in the period when there was no television or radio. Today the situation is that in gath -- that is, abroad, -- everything is permitted and known, but this government is trying to conceal the truth from the inhabitants of Qiryat Gat, it is trying to conceal cries of bravo or deserved shame. This is how the government tried to act in the Golan Heights, in Yamit, and this is also how it is now trying to act in the territories.

In the territories, with great labor and with great wisdom, a policy called the policy of open bridges was implemented. A great part of its design came from Moshe Dayan. It was built on a minimum of interference by us and on a maximum of actual coexistence. Defense Minister Sharon is trying to undermine that structure. The mayors have been dismissed and the defense minister is trying to interfere -- I am also speaking at the expense of the faction, I want to finish my words in an orderly fashion -- the defense minister is interfering in every area, in every place, at every opportunity, whether it is necessary or not. The result is damage to ourselves and to Israel.

I am certain the IDF is doing and will continue to do its best not to harm innocent people. They are members of the Jewish nation which rejects bloodshed -- our blood or that of Arabs. All blood is red and any bloodshed is painful. It is certainly not easy to stand face to face with people who are throwing stones at our army and throwing molotóv cocktails at it, and our soldiers are specifically, with the agreement of us all, entitled to save their own lives, to defend their honor when they are attacked. But our criticism is not against the measures being taken to avoid harm to soldiers and settlers, but against the policy or absence of policy that has led to this situation.

Does the defense minister have the power to change the feelings of the inhabitants? Will a corps of IDF officers run the municipalities? Where does this lead? Knesset members, I now want to describe a positive view. What would a government headed by the Alignment do? First, the policy in the territories. As long as there is no autonomy... [shouting from the Knesset] I understand, Ms Sara... what is her name... Sara Doron, the nation voted for her, saw her, heard her, fell in love with her, what sort of a way to speak is that? Right, I admit, I admit, so everyone, well, you, all of you... [words indistinct because of Knesset heckling]

First... first -- stop speaking like that and you will not receive such replies -- we would adhere to a policy whose principles are normalization of life in all fields; the granting of employment -- Yosi -- the encouragement of industrial development, agriculture and services; freedom of movement; open bridges; noninterference in the internal life of the population; the running of the inhabitants' affairs by themselves; free contact with Jordan; the holding of elections and the honoring of their results. At the same time, we would ban membership in the PLO, and we would maintain security and order there and put Jewish settlements in security zones.

Second, we would honor democratic tradition, giving the media the full possibility to fulfill its tasks, as reporters and critics, without interference, without pressure, without words of condemnation and threats and, in extreme cases requiring censorship, using it with full discussion with the committee of newspaper editors, who are responsible people.

Third, we would not scatter promises for the sake of making an impression. We would present our problems frankly, promising only what can be kept and keeping what has been promised. We have never supported "you grabbed everything and were grabbed by everything." Therefore, we say the settlement policy should be implemented in those areas of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza in which we will insist on sovereignty for reasons of security, and not sovereignty apart and settlements apart particularly the areas surrounding Jerusalem; the Jordan Rift Valley; Gush 'Ezyon; the south of the Gaza District and, of course, the Golan Heights.

In contrast to this, the Alignment rejects settlement in densely-populated Arab areas, because the annexation against their will of areas where hundreds of thousands of Arabs live could turn Israel into an actual binational state -- that is, a state in which the conflict between us and the Arabs will increase, with no way out, with the Arab population increasing to dimensions that will jeopardize the operative majority of the Jewish population. On this issue, too, the truth must be told. Knesset members, in the two areas vital to Israel, around Jerusalem and in Galilee, there is already now a worrisome demographic inbalance, from the Jewish viewpoint. In Galilee the Jewish population is already under 50 percent; and, in order to reach a situation in Judaea and Samaria -- the situation in existence in Galilee, which is worrisome in itself -- 850,000 Jews must be settled. Where will they come from? From Galilee? From Jerusalem? From Qiryat Shemona? From Dimona? Mr Sharon claims 23,000 Jews are now living in Judaea and Samaria. Until the Likud came to power, there were more than 10,000 Jews there -- that is, with all that mighty bulldozing during the 5 years of Likud rule, slightly more than 10,000 Jews have settled there, less than half of the Arab children born in the territories in 1 year.

The Likud program is to develop a town or towns, to build villas on convenient terms. Mr Sharon calls this settlement.

As we see it, settlement is fields, not only territories. The territories are there, the fields are not and the farmers are Arabs.

The problem is not only demographic, this settlement contradicts almost any chance of peace between us and the Arabs. The Alignment has never conceived, has never engraved on its banner, the evacuation of settlements. And we will insist on the fact that in future negotiations the Jewish settlements will remain as they are. We do not accept the idea of Judenrein [last word in German] and we are not proposing removing Jewish settlements, just as we are not proposing removing Arab settlements, because the Arabs also settle and settle down [mitnahlim umityashvim] not only in the heart of Judaea and Samaria but, Mr Begin, in Jerusalem and its environs and its hills, too. This is not a static situation.

However, we say frankly what the government is trying to conceal from the nation: The settlements will remain. With regard to sovereignty, there will be negotiations without preconditions. In order to attain peace, it is necessary to reach agreed, defensible, borders. In order to live in peace, no one side has the right to settle and there must be no commitments to destroy settlements, as was done in the Sinai.

Fifth, and last: What is the political solution that the Alignment is proposing and what are its realistic chances of succeeding? We are aware of the Camp David agreement and, when we are the government, we will maintain that agreement in full. If it was laid upon us today to implement them, we would certainly conclude the autonomy negotiations. We know and we do not conceal this from the nation that it is impossible to come to an agreement with Egypt unless Egypt makes several compromises and we make several compromises. The last 2 years of negotiations have led the sides to dig in in their positions without leading.... [Knesset speaker asks Peres to conclude] I believe that Egypt wants peace because it needs it and we want peace and we also need it.

After signing the autonomy agreement, we would first of all make it applicable to the Gaza Strip, with Israel keeping for itself a security strip. After that we would invite Jordan, together with representatives of the inhabitants of the territories, to the negotiating table; and let nobody make against us the vain accusation of the past, that Husayn rejects negotiations with Israel and rejects territorial compromise, because this can be answered: Who does support negotiations with Israel? The inhabitants of the territories? The PLO? What is the alternative? Furthermore, As-Sadat himself, before he came to Jerusalem, did he not say again and again that he stood behind Khartoum -- no negotiations, no settlement, no recognition, no peace? Did he not swear that he would not conduct negotiations with us as long as there was one Israeli soldier on the Sinai soil? Did he not swear that what was taken by force would be returned by force? He swore and he came, because the truth is that people who swear change their declarations when the situation changes.

As long as no such change can be seen on the horizon, I understand that Husayn will really not change his declarations. He does not want to lose face without the chance of a real settlement. The Egypt of Mubarak must support the entry of Jordan into the negotiations and, as far as I know, it really does support this, perhaps other Arab countries do as well. As for Jordan itself, we should not listen only to its microphones, we must look at its situation. Syria is putting pressure on it from the north. In the south its relations with Egypt have been disrupted. In the east it has joined with Iraq which is absorbing thoroughly good blows from the Iranian Army, which is fighting in the name of Jerusalem. In the west, Jordan itself has begun to settle -- thousands of its farmers, along the Jordan River. Today only the Jordan River separates Jordan's farmers and our farmers. Can they risk fire? to light another fire, after they are burned by a fire they lit 17 years ago? The 850,000 Arabs living in Judaea and Samaria are all Jordanian citizens. Can Jordan relinquish its responsibility for them or for the territories?

As for us, we know the inhabitants of the territories cannot decide on their own.

They need the guidance and support of an external organization, either the PLO or Jordan. The PLO is out of the question. It is inconceivable that any responsible Israeli would agree to the establishment of a Palestinian state between Jordan and us; a state that would necessarily have an army, would have weapons, and would have orientation. The army would be a hostile army. The weapons would be Soviet weapons and it would in any event be oriented toward the Soviet Union. How is it possible to conceive that we should agree that at the gates of Jerusalem, inside Tziyon, a hostile army should enjoy Israel's territories, with its weapons aimed at the heart of our nation, with Soviet support, whose character we know.

Anyone who wants to say no wholeheartedly to the PLO must say a wholehearted yes to Jordan and the inhabitants of the territories. The Alignment would offer Husayn a compromise, although not on matters of security. After all, there is an Arab country that has already agreed that the IDF will remain deployed in security zones for the period of autonomy and also after that. Did Egypt agree to that at the beginning? It agreed at the end of the negotiations. How do we know that Husayn will not also agree?

What the Likud is promising us is ignoring two dangers Israel can expect: one, to its character, and the second to its security. One danger springs from the erosion of our majority and the second danger springs from the accumulation of modern technology, U.S., European, Russian, in the hands of the Arabs. Knesset members, in another 10 or 20 years our children will ask us, the parents: Were you blind as to how the foundations of the Jewish state became eroded? Did you not see the danger accumulating before your very eyes? What did you do? Did you try to do something? And we say that such a question is also being put to the Arabs, and anybody who ignores it will pay the price.

Finally, I want to sum up the Alignment position in the following points: The settlement policy in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza District must be guided by Israel's security and settlement maps, within defensible borders; and, as is known, these borders include the environs of Jerusalem, the Jordan Rift Valley, Gush 'Ezyon, the south of the Gaza District and the Golan Heights. The Alignment rejects the establishment of settlement in densely-populated Arab areas likely to lead post factum to turning Israel into a binational state. By the establishment of these settlements, the current government is taking upon itself heavy responsibility for the future of Israel and it is jeopardizing our existence as a Jewish and democratic country. In negotiations for peace between Israel and its neighbors, to be conducted without preconditions, Israel will fight for the fact that in any sovereignty settlement over Judaea and Samaria and the Gaza District, to be agreed upon between the sides, the Jewish settlements will remain as they are, in a sovereignty framework to be agreed upon in peace negotiations without preconditions.

The government's position now being proposed is invalid and is nothing but an empty declaration, because the Camp David agreements determine that for the next 5 years autonomy will be established in the territories, and in its framework that problem does not come up for discussion on the agenda at all. And, finally, the government's actions in the territories are causing serious damage to Israel's image and its international status and will make the achievement of a political settlement in the future more difficult.

PERES VIEWS NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL

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[Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres interviewed by Razi Barqay -- date and place of interview not given]

[Text] [Razi Barqay -- live] With the opening of the Knesset summer session on 3 May, the Alignment is again making a bid for power and behind that attempt, so it appears, there is a clear feeling by the party's leaders that it would be good for them to enter new elections from positions of strength and not from the opposition benches. This is Razi Barqay speaking.

The angry exchanges between the prime minister's office and the Labor Party's reactions team have, at this stage, delayed the possibility of establishing a national unity government, and while some opposition members have sighed a breath of relief, others will look at another opportunity. Shim'on Peres himself does not in principle reject joining with the Likud, and although, as he phrases it, this is not realistic for the moment, the neutralization of Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon certainly does tempt the Alignment leaders. Peres thinks that Sharon, as he describes it, is leading Israel to destruction. When we asked Mr Peres if he really thought the Alignment would be able to live with Mr Begin in this upcoming Knesset session or after new elections, he replied unhesitatingly: Begin the unvanquishable is a media legend. Eight times he ran at the head of the Likud in its various incarnations and he lost. We have an undiscovered reserve of force in the public, it is not a Heavenly ordained law that the Likud should continue to be in power.

At the end of this week, after Peres had met with the prime minister, we spoke with him about the Alignment's relations with the government as we near the resumption of the Knesset session. The first question we asked was: Why is the Alignment for the moment refusing to join in a national unity government with the Likud.

[Begin recording] [Peres] I could have made things easy for myself with a formal reply, saying that in fact the prime minister is proposing the national unity government to the media. Between us, there has never been a talk about a national unity government.

[Question] Begin claims there is a Labor Party decision preventing such a possibility in advance.

[Answer] Is the prime minister a member of the Labor Party? Do the Labor Party's decisions bind him? That is quite a transparent excuse. To date, it is my impression that his offer is more, let us say, to gain points in the media than genuine, but I am not prepared to satisfy myself with that formal answer. I think this government is moving in a certain direction, toward a dead end, and without a program, while we are moving in a direction which, in my opinion, will guarantee both security and peace and preserve the necessary, genuine character of Israel.

[Question] And if this government is really moving towards a dead end, could your being in the government help find a solution?

[Answer] Policy lines must be agreed upon. There is no point in establishing a government in which each component prevents the other from doing something. That would be a government of paralysis, and the Likud has firm views -- unjustified, but firm -- and we have our own views, according to which we led the State of Israel for many years and we think that we must continue along this path which contains within it the Zionist, Jewish and social content of our country.

[Question] Mr Peres, it is said that one of the reasons that, nevertheless, members of your party want to enter a national unity government is the neutralization of Ari'el Sharon as defense minister. Do you confirm this?

[Answer] I do not deny that there are no few people in the Labor Party who regard Mr Sharon and his policy as a policy of bulldozing, polarizing and splitting the nation -- I want to tell you that I myself have been defense minister and I know that a defense minister must look for the best understanding and the best consensus on the security issue. Mr Sharon's appearances in the Knesset are terrible, uncurbed, and his policy in the territories is a miserable policy. He has destroyed an entire political edifice which we termed open bridges, and all Mr Sharon's announcements that there is peace in the territories -- I have never seen so many instances of peace. In fact, one such instance of peace would be enough. It is a slanderous [meloza] policy that does not serve any worthwhile purpose.

[Question] But this is the Ari'el Sharon who succeeded in evacuating Yamit without one shot, without bloodshed.

[Answer] First of all, I respect the fact that there was no bloodshed, but let us make a genuine accounting: The question was, was there really a danger of bloodshed? Do you know what? The Yamit District could also have been evacuated without unnecessarily insulting so many settlers who had gone out on our mission. That was inept treatment. By the way, I want to say here that an appreciable part of the fact that there was no bloodshed I actually attribute to the media. The fact that they showed the nation all the dangers involved put no inconsiderable pressure on those who were opposed to the withdrawal not to lift a hand or their voices. It was actually public opinion here, in my opinion, that played the role of prime importance. I do not want to detract from anyone, not from Mr Begin's credit, not from Mr Sharon, not from the commander of the Southern Command, nor from the thousands of male and female soldiers who behaved perfectly in the field. I am not trying to detract from anyone, but one must also analyze.

[Question] By the way, if you were defense minister, would you have recommended destroying Yamit?

[Answer] No. Definitely not. What did we achieve by destroying the town? We again called into question Israel's image. After all, the Egyptians will reconstruct the town and if there was any danger in the existence of the town, that danger has not passed -- whether it attracts terrorists or, with a very great difference, our people. What did we accomplish? In my opinion, Yamit should have been left as a contribution to peace, to show generosity and we would only have gained points. I do not want to discuss the financial side, whether 75 million or 80 million [currency not stated] could have been gained, although that is also not to be sneered at. We built, we invested, and the Egyptians were prepared to pay.

Another thing that disturbs me very much about the destruction of the buildings is who made the decision? In fact, Mr Begin shirked his responsibility for making a decision. What is a decision? Is one of that magnitude to be made by one man? Without the Cabinet? Without consideration? Without discussion?

[Question] Mr Peres, you have been accused by the prime minister -- you, or some of the Alignment members -- and I quote: There were those who expected [tzipu] that there would be bloodshed. What is your reaction to those words?

[Answer] That is one of the gravest charges ever made. It is true that I understand that there is now a claim that that was not what was meant but I am not prepared to drop the issue. I do not know even one person who even conceived of such an expectation of blood, Jewish blood. What sort of claims, what sort of charge is that?

[Question] And now there is the question on 3 May of a possible joint draft proposal between you and the Likud rejecting the removal of settlements. Why are you opposed to it?

[Answer] The first thing is that if we were to agree to the Likud's decision today, we would in fact be giving them carte blanche for their future settlement programs, because as soon as the Knesset commits itself to such a decision, it not only commits itself regarding the existing settlements, but also to future settlements. In other words, the Alignment would be lending its hand to a settlement program it rejects, because we reject settlement in densely populated Arab regions. That again turns Israel into a country that makes extremist decisions without any need, decisions that add nothing. By the way, Mr Begin himself says there is no need for a draft proposal. If this is just a declaration [last word in English], and any government can make its own declaration. Furthermore, we have seen that the same government that declares that it will not remove settlements has removed them.

[Question] We are facing the opening of the Knesset summer session and according to what you have said, I understand that a national unity government is out of the question for the moment and apparently the possibility that you will vote no confidence in Menahem Begin's government is also out of the question. So what is on the agenda?

[Answer] First of all, all possibilities are on the agenda.

[Question] Including a national unity government?

[Answer] The situation concerning a national unity government is that the Likud has not proposed one and the Alignment has not agreed.

[Question] From your answer, I do not hear a definite rejection of that idea?

[Answer] From my position, what is decisive is the implementation of policy. Theoretically, I can say that if the Likud were to adopt the Alignment's programs, why not?

[Question] And that is not, for the moment, realistic?

[Answer] For the moment, certainly not.

[Question] So what is realistic?

[Answer] What is realistic is certainly an attempt to change the government in this Knesset. In all the tallying of votes everyone is making -- how should I put it, it is an accounting without an owner. I am not saying that it is certain the attempt will succeed. I am not even saying that it is almost certain. I do say that it is a possibility because the Knesset, in fact, is divided into two parts, equal parts, and one time someone moves from one side to the other and another time someone moves in the opposite direction. Another possibility is elections. If there is a proposal for early elections, I personally am certainly unhesitatingly in favor. I will put it before my colleagues and I will try to persuade them to support early elections.

[Question] Will the Alignment itself initiate such a proposal?

[Answer] The Alignment itself does not have a majority for such a thing and there is no point in just making a demonstrative effort in the Knesset. If a majority is created, or in order to create a majority, the Alignment's agreement is required, I will certainly recommend to my collagues that they join a Knesset majority to move the elections forward.

[Barqay] Shim'on Peres, thank you very much. [end recording]

SOURCES DENY NEWSWEEK REPORT ON SYRIAN DEPLOYMENT

TA040925 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 4 May 82 p 2

[Report by the military correspondent]

[Text] Authoritative military sources yesterday voiced reservations about the report published by NEWSWEEK to the effect that Syrian Army units had been moved to forward positions in the Al-Biqa' Valley in preparation for an anticipated Israeli attack. "We know nothing of any recent significant changes in the composition or location of the Syrian troops stationed in Lebanon," the authoritative military sources told DAVAR.

The Syrian expeditionary force in Lebanon is the size of a reinforced division, in addition to armored, commando, artillery, antitank and antiaircraft units, and surface-to-air missiles -- numbering all in all, from 25,000 to 30,000 men. One of the three tank brigades (with T-55 and T-62 tanks) is stationed on Syrian territory on the border, but since early last summer some of its tanks have been stationed on Lebanese territory. The commando troops comprise 15 battalions, nearly half of which are stationed in the Zahlah area. One mechanized infantry brigade and one Palestinian Liberation Army [PLA] brigade (under Syrian command) are stationed in the Beirut area. Another mechanized brigade, together with an additional PLA brigade, are stationed in the Zahlah area. The Syrian artillery in Lebanon comprises between 250 and 300 guns, some of which are stationed on Syrian territory along the Lebanese border. The Syrian artillery force includes 13 SAM-2, SAM-3 and SAM-6 batteries, some of which are stationed in the Zahlah area.

SOVIET MILITARY EXPERTS ARRIVING IN JORDAN

TA021112 Jerusalem POST in English 2 May 82 p 2

[Report by the Mideast affairs reporter]

[Excerpt] Soviet military experts have begun arriving in Jordan to prepare for the integration into the Jordanian Army of Soviet weapons, acquired by King Husayn on his visit to Moscow last year, the IDF spokesman revealed this weekend. Husayn signed a $200 million arms deal with the Soviets, mainly for sophisticated air-defence systems including SAM-8 surface-to-air missiles and ZSU-2 and 3/4 self-propelled anti-aircraft guns. Iraq is reported to have financed the deal.

Further Details

TA021620 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 2 May 82

[Text] Military sources in Israel say that according to information received from the United States, several dozen Soviet military experts are now active in Jordan. The Israeli military sources say it is to be hoped that the Jordanians are aware of the danger facing their kingdom by the presence and involvement of Soviet experts on their territory. The military sources mentioned that Jordan's King Husayn last year decided to purchase from the Soviet Union surface-to-air missiles and mobile antiaircraft artillery pieces. The equipment was to reach Jordan this summer. Nevertheless, the Israeli sources noted that according to Western sources Jordan intends to position most of this Soviet equipment near the meeting point of its borders with Israel and Syria and that it is, in particular, intended to deter a Syrian aerial attack.

RIOTS, DISTURBANCES CONTINUE IN GAZA DISTRICT

TA022051 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2040 GMT 2 May 82

[Text] Gaza, 2 May -- Riots and disturbances of public order have continued for the past 2 days in most rural and urban centers in the Gaza District. The riots are apparently coordinated with events in Judaea and Samaria. Occasionally agitators appeared near the local schools after disturbances had occurred in Judaea and Samaria. They called on youths to come out in the streets and demonstrate.

Yesterday and today there was a series of incidents in which Israeli cars were attacked on the main artery crossing through the Gaza Strip. Drivers from Ra'anana, Netanya and Moshav Mavtihim as well as some Egged bus drivers filed complaints. They claimed they were also attacked near Khan Yunis and Rafah and that their vehicles were damaged. Today there were also some attempts to block traffic with burning tires.

Some youths entered the girls school in Gaza, but the teachers managed to drive them away and the girls did not pay attention to the instigators.

In Rafah, statements expressing opposition to continued Israeli rule over the town were circulated, urging the population to continue to demonstrate. There were also some instances in which stones were thrown at military and private cars near the refugee camps in the center of the Gaza Strip. A tourist bus that arrived through the border terminal was redirected to the Kerem Shalom-Be'iri road that bypasses the strip in the north. Some people were detained for questioning.

TWO WOUNDED BY IDF SHOTS DURING DEMONSTRATION

TA030700 Jerusalem POST in English 3 May 82 p 1

[Excerpts] A 14-year-old Arab girl was seriously wounded in the head yesterday by an Israeli civilian who fired at demonstrators pelting his car with rocks near Hebron. Also wounded yesterday were a 13-year-old boy and a 23-year-old woman in the Shuafat refugee camp in northern Jerusalem, who were hit by shots fired by security forces breaking up a demonstration. Widespread unrest was reported throughout Judaea and Samaria. Dozens of youths were arrested in Dura south of Hebron after an attack on the local police station on Saturday. Security officials closed a school in Hebron and another in Dahariya after riots.

In Nabulus, shots were fired in the air to disperse demonstrators and security forces blocked approaches to Al-Najah College. Limitations were placed on movement in several refugee camps and villages. According to Arab sources, 15 Arabs have been killed in the recent round of unrest which began several weeks ago and 250 wounded by gunfire or tear-gas canisters. Israeli sources say that nine Arabs have been killed and 90 wounded, and that two Israelis have been killed and 50 wounded, mostly soldiers. The discrepency in figures for Arab dead occurred because the Israeli source did not list the two Arabs killed on the Temple Mount or the woman shot by a sentry at a military base at Beit-el. Three other Arab men were killed as explosives they were working on went off in their hands, according to the Israeli source.

TWO BETHLEHEM RESIDENTS CONFESS TO PLANTING MINES

TA030533 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 3 May 82

[Text] In the village of Husan, in the Bethlehem District, two inhabitants have confessed to planting a mine on a hiking path near the springs of the village of Batir. A soldier who was hiking there was seriously injured by the mine. An IDF spokesman reported that in an investigation further mines were discovered and several more suspects were arrested. Security forces last night sealed off the home of Muhammad 'Abd al-'Aziz (Sabitin), who confessed to planting the mine, and that of another resident of Husan, who confessed to being an accomplice.

ONE KILLED, ONE WOUNDED BY EXPLOSION NEAR GAZA

TA040535 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 4 May 82

[Text] In the old city of Jerusalem yesterday evening youths threw handgrenades at a border police patrol. There were no casualties. The patrol fired back at their assailants and one man was arrested. In the Jabalyah refugee camp near Gaza an 11-year-old boy was killed and an 8-year-old child seriously wounded in an explosion.

ASH-SHAK'AH DENOUNCES CIVIL ADMINISTRATION

TA021348 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 2 May 82

[Text] The deposed Nabulus mayor, Bassam Ash-Shak'ah, demanded in a news conference this morning that the civil administration in the territories be dissolved and that all mayors be reinstituted. Ash-Shak'ah accused the military authorities of continually provoking the municipalities in the territories. In his opinion the military authorities are trying to drive a wedge between the leadership in the territories and the inhabitants on the one hand and between the inhabitants and their land on the other. According to him the Nabulus municipal workers are not cooperating with the civil administration and with the officer appointed to handle municipal affairs. Ash-Shak'ah rejected allegations that during his term as mayor millions of Israeli pounds [currency as heard] belonging to the municipality disappeared.

Further Details

TA021949 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1830 GMT 2 May 82

[Text] Nabulus, 2 May -- Former Nabulus Mayor Bassam Ash-Shak'ah today denounced what he defined as "the intensive arbitrary measures of the Israeli authorities against an unarmed people using harsh collective punishments and detentions of men, women and children without a direct reason."

Ash-Shak'ah said this at a news conference he convened in his house in Nabulus. He said the Israeli authorities are also conducting an economic war in the territories against people who try to defend their rights and thus also severely restrict their rights. He then claimed the workers in the municipalities whose mayors were dismissed refuse to cooperate with the Israeli officials and are being held under a type of detention. Ash-Shak'ah contended that "there are many cases when the Israeli authorities dishonored us." He added that "the recent Israeli policy runs counter to history and against the Arab holy sites in the territories." He further stated that unsigned statements have circulated lately alleging that Jordan stands behind the recent demonstrations. According to Ash-Shak'ah the statements called on the inhabitants of the territories to remember black September when the Palestinians were slaughtered by the Jordanians. "I know these statements were written by the Israeli authorities," he said.

At the opening of the news conference, Ash-Shak'ah said "the Zionist policy is to annihilate us," and he therefore convened the news conference to alert the international conscience to this. He mentioned the disbanding of the Al-Birah municipal government and the removal of the Nabulus, Ramallah and 'Anabta mayors. He said "these arbitrary measures are soon going to also encompass the Bethlehem, Hebron, Qalqilyah, Janin and Gaza municipalities." Thus, he declared, the Israeli authorities consistently ignore international laws.

Finally Bassam Ash-Shak'ah read an announcement signed by 26 mayors and heads of local councils in the territories in which they demand that the deposed mayors be reinstituted. Their announcement also declared their continued struggle for the maintenance of the national interests of the residents of the territories, in accord with international norms.

SHARON TO VISIT U.S.; MAY MEET WEINBERGER

TA040514 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 4 May 82

[Text] Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon will arrive in the United States in about 2 weeks and may confer with U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger. Our correspondent in Washington Shalom Qital reports that Minister Sharon will arrive in the United States on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal and will also be the guest of honor in salutes to Israel.

ALGERIA

FOREIGN MINISTER BEN YAHIA KILLED IN PLANE CRASH

LD040832 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 4 May 82

[Summary from poor reception] President Chadli Bendjedid has received with regret the news of the crash near the Iranian-Turkish border of the Algerian aircraft that carried the Algerian delegation led by Foreign Minister Ben Yahia. Since learning of the disappearance of the aircraft yesterday evening, the president followed all efforts made throughout the night to ascertain the fate of the aircraft and its passengers.

The aircraft crashed last night. "The Algerian delegation was expected in Tehran at 1812 yesterday. When the aircraft did not arrive, Iranian officials informed the Algerian ambassador in Tehran that the aircraft had landed at Damascus airport and that its passengers would spend the night in the Syrian capital. Following our Tehran ambassador's inquiry with the Algerian Foreign Ministry, contact immediately was made with the Syrian authorities who confirmed the aircraft did not arrive at Damascus airport. Algerian officails maintained contact throughout the night with the authorities in Iran, Turkey, Syria, Cyprus, Lebanon, Tunisia and the Soviet Union to ascertain the fate of the aircraft.

"At about 0500 today, the Iranian authorities announced the Algerian aircraft had crashed on Iranian territory about 3 km from the Iranian-Turkish border. Concentrated efforts are being made at the crash site to ascertain the fate of all the aircraft's passengers.

No information has been received so far. An investigation committee led by the Iranian deputy foreign minister is going to the crash site, accompanied by our ambassador to Iran."

JORDANIAN MILITARY DELEGATION ARRIVES 2 MAY

LD022100 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 May 82

[Text] A Jordanian military delegation headed by Col Hilmi (?Douji), deputy chief of the General Staff of the Jordanian Armed Forces, arrived in Algiers today on an official visit of several days. The delegation was (?welcomed) by a number of senior officers of the National People's Army and cadres of the National Defense Ministry.

MOROCCO

KING RECEIVES IRAQI OFFICIAL, HUSAYN MESSAGE

LD040020 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 3 May 82

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II, may God support him, this evening received Bourhan ad-Din 'Abd ar-Rahman, member of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council, at the royal palace in Fes. The Iraqi envoy delivered to his majesty the king a personal message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. The audience was attended by M'hamed Boucetta, minister of state in charge of foreign affairs; Ahmed Reda Guedira, adviser to his majesty the king; and 'Ali Husayn al-Qassab, Iraqi ambassador to Rabat.

HASSAN SET TO VISIT UNITED STATES 18-20 MAY

LD031822 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 May 82

[Text] Rabat, 3 May (MAP) -- The Moroccan office of royal courts, protocol and medals today announced that King Hassan II will pay an official visit to Washington 18-20 May at the invitation of U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

During the visit, the Moroccan monarch will hold talks with the U.S. President on bilateral relations and matters of common interest. He also will hold talks with Vice President George Bush, Secretary of State Alexander Haig and other U.S. Government and Congress members.

The king will visit New York and Chicago and will attend a banquet given in his honor by President Reagan. The King Hassan II last visited the United States in November 1978.

TUNISIA

MZALI DESCRIBES U.S. VISIT AS 'USEFUL, FRUITFUL'

LD021902 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 May 82

[Text] President Habib Bourguiba this morning received at the Republican Palace in Carthage Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali following the latter's return home from his official visit to the United States. The president later invited the prime minister to lunch with him.

Afterward Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali stated: I had the honor of meeting with the president immediately on my arrival in the homeland and of informing him of the results of my official visit to the United States. I conveyed to him President Reagan's greetings.

On the whole, the visit was useful and fruitful, he said. During which and in all contacts with the officials, academicians, businessmen and pressmen, I expounded the views of President Bourguiba and those of the government and its policy as well as the objectives of the 5-year plan. I hope, indeed, I am convinced, that the Americans, both officials and nonofficials, have gained a better understanding of the plan and will contribute to its success. This was the principal objective of my visit.

I also held talks with President Reagan and U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig on matters concerning the Middle East. I explained clearly and rationally the views of the Tunisian Government and the policy of the great combatant in this regard. I believe our talks on Palestine and the Middle East were positive and will show future results, he added.

In short, I am pleased to perform this mission, to convey the message of the great combatant and to serve my country and help its cause of progress and development.

GHANA

RAWLINGS MAY DAY ADDRESS DEPLORES CORRUPTION

AB012230 Accra Domestic Service in English 2030 GMT 1 May 82

[May Day speech to nation by Provisional National Defense Council Chairman Flight Lieutenant Rawlings in Accra -- live]

[Text] Fellow countrymen: Today is May Day, and 4 months into the revolution -- a seemingly slow revolution. May Day is traditionally marked as a day of workers' solidarity throughout the world. It commemorates the fight of workers against the exploitation of man by man. It is the day on which workers the world over affirm their common plight and their common destiny. May 1st is also the day in 1974 on which the overwhelming majority in the General Assembly of the United Nations made the historic call for a new international economic order that would redress the injustices of the international division of labor. But if May Day merely means that one day in the year is granted to workers or to the wretched of the earth generally to affirm themselves, and then slave away for the rest of the year producing wealth in which their share is minimal, then it is also part of the process of betrayal for workers.

On May Day, it has been possible for some nonproducing elements in the society to pretend to have solidarity with workers, and then as soon as the day passes to revert to their natural state -- an unnatural state for man -- of active exploitation and oppression of the workers. More serious, however, has been the sellout of workers by some of their own leaders.

By 31st December, there was widespread anger and disillusionment among the mass of Ghanaian workers. The union system and structure, instead of advancing their interest, had become a bureaucractic dictatorship dominated by a opportunism and insensitivity to the real condition of workers. Illegally dismissed workers found little joy in their own leaders who were too ready to compromise with management. At a time when the rank and file of workers could not obtain the most basic commodities, some unionleaders were comfortably trading with private factories in commodities they had obtained in the name of their workers. No wonder union activities ceased to be of interest to many workers. The continuing upheavals on the organized labor front are the natural results of the failures over the years; and these underline the vital importance of truly democratic and revolutionary trades union organization to harness the power of workers and to enable them to play the leading role that the government of the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] expects them to play in the revolution. Nobody in the labor front should seek to suppress the democratic demands of workers themselves through resort to organized thuggery and a refusal to acknowledge past errors and chart new courses for organized labor.

While it is clear that workers have a legitimate basis for their anger at their union leadership, it is a dangerous and incorrect attitude to see the unionization of workers as the problem. Unions have historically served specific and important functions, and will continue to do so. The newly created workers defense committees have not come to replace unions. Some union leader have unfortunately adopted a hostile attitude to these committees precisely because they see in these committees an uncomfortable threat to their overlordship of workers -- a way of exposing not only the failures of management but their complicity too.

Had they been true leaders, they would automatically emerge true leaders in these free democratic expressions. Such people fail to realize that a strong democratic union, actively pursuing the interests of workers, will necessarily be a complement to a revolutionary defense committee through which workers are beginning to participate in the highest levels of national decisionmaking. Only that alliance can ensure a fuller defense of the workers and the national interest.

For the PNDC, therefore, the revolutionary reorganization of the organized labor movement depends entirely on the democratic initiative of workers themselves. And this is a pressing matter of the moment if workers are not to lose a vital initiative.

The experiences of the past 4 months have offered us an indication of the revolutionary potential of the PDC's [people defense committees] as well as of problems in the course of their development. People's defense committees in many places have asserted the right of the people to have a democratic voice in national life. They have exposed counter-revolutionaries, smugglers, hoarders as well as corruption, inefficiency and waste. The revolutionary vigilance displayed by people's defense committees is an important contribution to the revolutionary process and must be encouraged and strengthened.

Some incidents that have come to our notice, however, suggest that a few people's defense committees do not sufficiently understand the nature of popular initiative. There have been cases where PDC's, without adequate information and flimsy (?angry grounds), have sought the removal of managers and heads or organizations. It is almost as if removal is the only solution to every allegation of inefficiency. Surely, it is not correct or revolutionary for a PDC to demand the removal of the person simply because he is a manager or simply on the basis of trivial and unfounded allegations. There must always be a clear exposure of the faults of the manager so that clear and publicized warning can be given to all those who may be engaged in or contemplate antirevolutionary activities. People's defense committees must not give any grounds for counterrevolutionaries who are looking out for errors to justify a clamp down on popular initiative.

Some PDC's overeaching themselves, however, does not weaken the importance of popular initiatives; for it is only when the people constantly indicate to the PNDC and other organs what their genuine feelings are that there can be an assurance that the gap will not open between the people and their leaders. The national coordinating structure of the PDC's -- the INCC [Interim Nation Coordinating Committee] -- which is directly responsible to the PNDC, is gradually developing the needed structure of relationships between PDC's. With a fuller development of this coordination, the work of defense committees will become more systematic and truly democratic. Popular participation in the decision-making process must be a reality. The development of the defense committees as true organs of revolutionary national responsibility is the only way this can be assured. It is in the light of this that the PNDC has noted with concern recent reports of molestation of members of community PDC's. We take this opportunity to assert again the fundamental legitimacy of the PDC's in the revolution. Responses to the PDC's which seek to destroy them or impede their growth represents a direct challenge to the people's power, which will be dealt with decisively. More so when it is observed that the PDC's are also important mobilizing units -- have collective economic activity -- it is gratifying to know that, particularly in the rural areas, people are mobilizing and organizing through the PDC's to raise agricultural output.

There are many more productive activities for which PDC's can mobilize the people, and this will be encouraged. The most important category of our farmers -- the small peasant farmers, upon whose shoulders most of our food production rests -- are unorganized. In the rural communities, the PDC's must serve the purpose of helping to organize this group into cooperative and collective units to enable the optimal use of inputs and equipment and the rationalization of land, tractor and labor use. In the industrial and other nonagricultural sectors, the PDC's have a role to play in motivating workers to raise productivity. The present state of our economy requires that we link our struggle to advance popular authority with hard work, sacrifice and discipline. The workers on the production line and in the offices know better than anyone else what practices and lapses reduce productivity. The PDC's must exert themselves to eliminate all these antirevolutionary practices in the supreme interest of the nation. Indeed, unless workers are thoroughly disciplined and reject inefficiency in their own ranks, they lose any moral authority to challenge inefficient management.

Over the years, the systematic but often veiled robbery of the people that has taken place through the state organization itself and public institutions generally has left a legacy of total laxity towards public property and its maintenace. Such attitudes have become so deep seated that some people cannot visualize an alternative way of life. According to a confidential report of the World Bank group circulated in October 1981, in the 3-year [as heard] period -- 1976, 1977 to 1980 -- workers paid six times the income taxes paid by businessmen even though businessmen enjoyed two-thirds of personal wealth in the country. Just to give further illustration of the blatant injustices in our tax system, we have the case of a managing director of two companies who pays himself 23,497 cedis in taxable income and 35,670 cedis nontaxable allowances; and in the second company paid himself nothing at all in taxable income but 73,473 cedis in nontaxable income. So that our of the total income of 132,622 cedis, this respectable businessman paid taxes on only 23,479 and pocketed 109,143 cedis in tax free income. These (?planned) injustices must not be permitted to continue. Accordingly, pending a thorough reexamination of our tax system, we have decided that with immediate effect all allowances in excess of 100 percent of the basic salary should be considered taxable.

Fellow countrymen, another shocking aspect of the mismanagement of our economy is that state corporations that were set up as pivots of a self-reliant national economy have now become wastepipes which make no contribution to revenue but live on government subventions without even bothering to submit their accounts. In the current financial year, subventions to these organizations amounted to 1,648 million cedis, mostly for the payment of salaries and wages.

The food production corporation which is supposed to produce food for both its workers and for the general public cannot even pay its workers. The suspended 1981-1982 budget allocated 49.8 million cedis subvention to the corporation. The cocoa production division of the Cocoa Marketing Board [CMB], which employs about 53,000 able-bodied workers, was allocated 407.1 million cedis for salaries and wages. It is significant that this large army of workers, fed on government subventions, take no part in evacuating precious cocoa locked up in various regions of the country.

The Ghana National Reconstruction Corps, which was set up in 1976 to eliminate food shortage in the country, still lives on government subvention. In 1978-1979, the corps spent about 79.2 million cedis without making any appreciable contribution to the revenue. With the PNDC's commitment to financial discipline, all statutory boards and corporations and local authorities whose annual accounts are in arrears are expected to take immediate steps to conform to the law as a matter of urgency.

The present position whereby the loans and advances granted to state economic enterprises by our banking system are guaranteed by the central government will no longer continue. The only guarantee will be our capacity to justify the pay we receive through profitable production. In this connection, the PNDC is considering proposals for the taking over of the State Enterprises Commission by the National Investment Bank which will serve as the registrar of all domestic and external loans raised by the public sector and semi-public economic enterprises.

Countrymen, there is hardly any aspect of our national economy which is free from corruption and incompetent management. The free textbook scheme which was meant to provide relief to the bulk of our people was taken over by textbook contractors and all sorts of middlemen. Out of the total estimated expenditure of 57.3 million cedis allocated to the scheme, as much as 16.8 million cedis was meant to cover clearing charges, including fees of clearing agents and distributors' margins. The textbook units of the Ministry of Education has been requested to furnish the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning with the list of all agents and contractors involved in the operation of the scheme as well as the criteria for their selection. The parasites in our society are so degraded that they steal, even from the resources that are allocated for feeding helpless inmates of our mental hospitals and leprosariums, not to mention schools, prisons and hospitals.

The average cost of feeding a patient per day in the Ho Leprosarium was about 47 cedis at the end of December 1981, while in other hospitals in the Volta Region, it was about 39 cedis. At the same time, students are feed on the average of 10 to 17.50 cedis per day per head and prisoners 15 cedis per head per day. Anyone, who has the personal acquaintance with the quality of food in our hospitals, schools and prisons would know that these disparities in feeding costs hide the realities of massive corruption. All these malpractices are being investigated thoroughly, and all those found to be guilty of any wrong doing would face the full wrath of the revolution. The list of these blatant malpractices in our social and economic life is an endless one indeed. We were gradually perfecting a social system which rewarded theft, and punished thrift, honesty and hard work. The ultimate losers in this system were, of course, the working people, who even if they stole and cheated to survive, could hardly steal as much as those whose pockets were already full with ill-gotten wealth..

The PNDC is determined not only to punish those who have looted the nation's coffers, but to make the necessary institutional changes that would prevent a recurrence of these lapses, hence the emphansis on the involvement of the people. These changes will include a program for the rescusitation of our export industries. Our mining industry has been faced with falling production since the fall of the first republic. Gold production has fallen from a peak of 900,000 fine ounces in 1962 to not more than 333,095 fine ounces in 1981. This year, the Bank of Ghana has forecast production to increase by barely 7,000 fine ounces. Diamond production has fallen from a peak of 3 million carats attained in the first republic to a low of under 1 million carats forecast for 1982. Bauxite production has dropped from a peak of over 300,000 tons in the 60's to a low of 173,000 tons forecast for 1982.

The position with the timber industry is also frustrating; exports in 1981 did not exceed $21.6 million compared to $130 million earned in 1973, and $51 million in 1979. The problems are indeed enormous, and their systematic solution is going to take time and great sacrifices.

The idle hands in our public services and corporations will no longer be fed on the sweat of the working people. These hands will be redirected into productive sectors of the economy. Accordingly, all public servants who have an interest in agriculture or livestock development and who now spend their weekends on their farms are to register with their heads of department so that every assistance within the power of the PNDC is placed at their disposal in terms of land clearing, supply of seedlings and fertilizers and chemicals. The same services are to be provided for our young men and women who are willing to enter agriculture, livestock breeding, fishing and timber logging.

Outside the people's defense committees and the organized labor movements, there are other important fronts on which our people have to be mobilized and organized along mass democratic lines. Over half of our population is youth under 20 years of age. The youth have a lot more stake in the future than their parents. They have a lot of enthusiasm, energy and optimism. All this must be properly mobilized and organized for the revolution. Hitherto, our youth have been grouped in independent, improperly coordinated organizations. The setting up of the National Youth Organization is the best step in building a truly national youth movement which will bring together and coordinate the diverse youth organizations. Our patriotic students have shown by their shining revolutionary example during their task force exercise what organized youth can contribute to national development. The students have also set an example of how much a new spirit can accomplish. Weak men never achieve anything but a revolutionary spirit can achieve even the most incredible goal. The PNDC salutes the students of the task force. We hope other sections of our youth will follow their example and participate in the various task forces on agricultural projects that the National Youth Organization Commission will initiate.

Our women, who outnumber the men, are unorganized and socially discriminated against. Our revolution, which aims to remove all forms of exploitation and discrimination, must necessarily advance the progress of emancipation of our women. In this regard, the PNDC noted with satisfaction the emerging mass national women's movements. The independent organization of our women will enable them to express their particular demands and concensus as women and make it possible for them to struggle to advance these demands.

Fellow countrymen, although our revolution is an angry one, we have managed so far to control our anger and to adopt a step by step approach to the solution of our problems. We do not want to make some of the mistakes of 4 June 1979. Every inch will be a learning process involving the mass of the people. We are measuring our paces very carefully so that we do not trip over; but that does not mean that we cannot run.

Within 4 months we have made some modest achievements, achievements which look very small besides our enormous difficulties. We have passed a rent decree, and soon revised transport fares agreed to by the INCC on behalf of the PDC's will be released. We have lifted the suspension on the payment of leave allowances, although we had hoped that workers would voluntarily make such a sacrifice. We have also instituted workers participation in the management of factories and corporations.

Today, we shall take another modest step in the direction of our revolutionary goal. The social security scheme has long ceased to offer the worker any real protection against hardship and deprivation in retirement and old age. The lump sum that is paid to him comes to very little and is invariably exhausted in a short time, leaving him with nothing to live on for the rest of his life. If he dies his entitlement is shared out between lawyers, his relatives and his immediate family. Invariably, it is his wife and children who suffer. Moreover, interest on his contribution is woefully low as is the proportion of his employer's contribution. In order to make this scheme more meaningful, in order to really make it a guarantee for the worker and his family against hardship and suffering, the PNDC is considering proposals for the adjustments of interest payments as well as employers' contributions and also for turning the whole scheme into a pension plan that could provide the worker and his family a monthly income throughout the period of his retirement. Consideration is also being given to proposal intended to alleviate the sufferings of pensioners who after years of dedicated service to the nation are often paid no more than 120 cedis a month. Could you believe that? The PNDC has also decided to review the Industrial Relations Act of 1965, so many years old.

When 4 June 1979 occurred and we introduced an act that served the interest of the masses, in all those 2 years we never had any rest. Today, transitional provisions, the day after day and night cries against transitional provisions militating against the rights of the minority. Meanwhile, nobody thought it wise or expedient to question an act that was militating against the interest of workers Industrial Relations Act since 1965 that humiliated exploitation. Yes 1965!

Fellow countrymen, we have spoken of our modest material gains. But we must also speak of some of our big victories. We know a lot about our economic exploitation, about dependency, about our underdevelopment. But we know very little about the psychological exploitation, very little about underdevelopment and foreign occupation of our minds -- the shattering of the moral fibre of this nation before the exploitation even began. Four June 31 December constitute important landmarks in the liberation of our minds, in the psychological preparedness to fight our exploiters and oppressors. I take this opportunity to warn all our detractors and enemies that we are determined to defend our modest gains with our lives. As history has shown, no power on earth can defeat a people properly and democratically organized in defense of their interest and nation. I have once quoted these words and I will do so again, and here I quote: "Those who make peaceful revolution impossible make violent revolution inevitable. We pray and hope that our revolution will be peaceful. We are calling for cooperation on all fronts." Those were the words of a very gallant statesman and I believe they tell the truth.

Long live the workers of Ghana! Good night and thank you.

OBSTACLES TO REVOLUTION TO BE 'WEEDED OUT'

AB030943 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 3 May 82

[Text] A member of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council], Sgt Aloga Akata-Pore, has warned that the PNDC wants to make the revolution a peaceful one but those who are trying to thwart its efforts by posing as obstacles will be weeded out.

Addressing a workers' rally organized by the June 4th movement at Koforidua, he observed that the first 4 months of the revolution to the new era for total structuring of the society. Everyone should therefore join the fight for the necessary changes by analyzing situations for improvement rather than merely attacking them.

Sergeant Akata-Pore said the PNDC is aware of reactionary leaflets being circulated -- a scheme being orchestrated by enemies of the revolution. But nothing, he said, should subvert the people's revolution. He called on the PDC's [people's defense committees] and the downtrodden who form 90 percent of the population to be united, determined, hard working, critical and never allow themselves to be misruled again by a few crooks or politicians. The PNDC members said the Agripetco agreement makes it possible for the foreign oil company to exchange a dollar at the rate of 6 cedis instead of the bank rate of 2 cedis 75 pesewas.

Sergeant Akata-Pore said many politicians and experts know of the cases of sellout of the investment code and in the operations of foreign companies and banks, but for their personal interests, the code has been left unchanged. The PNDC military representative in the eastern region called on the people to be courageous and give the exploitative and desperate enemy the last blow by exposing without fear all schemes that will endanger the interests of the people. He said, as a deterrent, drivers who charge above approved fares in the region will have their vehicles impounded until they pay a fine.

NUNOO-MENSAH SAYS PNDC NOT AGAINST RICH

AB301945 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 30 Apr 82

[Text] The chief of defense staff and member of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council], Brigadier Nunoo-Mensah, has declared that it is not the intention of the council to seize indiscriminately the property of people. Neither is it against the rich people in society who acquire their wealth through honest means. He said, however, that as long as there inequalities in the system, there is bound to be friction.

Brigadier Nunoo-Mensah was speaking at a seminar for chief executives of public and private organizations in Accra today to enlighten them on the functions of the people's defense committees [PDC]. He said the PNDC established the defense committees in order to restore, recreate and bring back the lost values of Ghanaians and build a society where everybody will find life worth living.

Brigadier Nunoo-Mensah said the PDC's are meant to involve all Ghanaians in building the country and not (?only) workers.

A member of the interim national coordinating committee for the PDC's, Mr Yaw Graham, asked the participants to regard the defense committees as elements of the new society aimed at involving all sections in the decisionmaking and implementation process. He asked those who want their views to be incorporated in the guidelines of the PDC's to forward them to coordinating committees.

During the discussion that followed, some chief executives of the corporations and comapnies made their complaints about PDC excesses and appealed for further guidelines on the role of PDC's to ensure harmony in workplaces toward serving the cause of the revolution.

CARETAKER COMMITTEE SET UP TO REORGANIZE TUC

AB301949 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 30 Apr 82

[Text] A caretaker management committee representing all 17 unions of the TUC [Trades Union Congress] has been established by the association of local unions to reorganize the structure of the congress of the national union. A spokesman for the association told a correspondent in Accra today that a major policy statement would be issued next week on how to run the affairs of the congress. Yesterday, the association took over the hall of trade unions and named the forecourt "Workers Revolutionary Square."

OBED ASAMOAH INTERVIEWED ON FOREIGN POLICY

AB010927 Accra Domestic Service in English 1945 GMT 30 Apr 82

[Interview with Provisional National Defense Council Secretary for Foreign Affairs Dr Obed Asamoah in Accra by an unidentified correspondent on program "Let's Find Out" -- date not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] Since the 31 December revolution, it has been said that the direction of the Ghana's foreign policy with regard to East-West alignment has had a change. If you agree with that, what are the main elements with this change, if there is any?

[Answer] I do not agree with that. I believe that we are maintaining our traditional policy of nonalignment. Under the previous government, there was a slight shift to the West in our foreign policy. And what the present government is doing is to redress that balance and to maintain a policy of friendliness with both the West and the East, as far as that is consistent, of course, with our national interests. So that basically, our policy is to remain nonaligned, and I do not believe that there is going to be a change in that policy. It has been the traditional position of Ghana all these years, since the time of Dr Kwame Nkrumah; and I think that will be the position. But unlike the case of the past government where there had been shift in one way or the other, I think this government is going to maintain an even (?trend).

Apart from being nonaligned, it is our policy to play a very positive role in the process of decolonization. Of course, you know that not that many countries are now under colonial rule, but we have the question of Namibia, for example; and we have the big problem of South Africa. Then we have the much bigger problem of neocolonialism really, about countries which are nominally independent, but which really do not behave like independent countries. (?It is) our policy to first of all participate actively in this process of decolonization and then at the same time to lead the way to a genuine independence for Africa; that is to say, to make other African countries realize that one should behave like an independent country and should not appear to be the satellite of any other country.

Now, thirdly, we intend to pursue very vigorously the efforts being made through the United Nations and other international organizations to ensure an equitable system of international trade. This is often referred to as the new economic order. We are very interested in that because, as you know, the present system of international trade works adversely against producers of primary commodities, such as Ghana.

[Question] Doctor, one of the very first things you talked about in terms of foreign policy was a question of nonalignment. You made a statement that the previous government kind of moved slightly toward the Western orientation and the position of the present government is to redress this. What do you mean by redressing this?

[Answer] What I mean is that we are going to be seen to be dealing with Eastern countries the same way we have been dealing with the Western countries. And you would have noticed that we have had a delegation to the Eastern countries. This delegation was invited by the Eastern countries. And they went there, and I think they came back yesterday. They visited Cuba as well (?in the process). We have had a delegation to London; we have been to Nigeria; I will be going to the United States sometime next month on my way to Cuba. So that you will see that in our actions we are going to maintain friendly relations with both Eastern and Western countries, consistent, of course, with our interest, you see.

[Question] We shall come to that, but then one major element of your administration since you came to power has been the question of our foreign missions. Your ministry has in recent times decided to cut down on our foreign missions. How many have you cut down on so far?

[Answer] Well, we have cut down 13. But I must explain: The 13 include some of these countries where we intend to keep consulates, such as Sierra Leone and Liberia. Now, there is still a process of thinking going on, and we have not really finished deciding exactly what to do with these missions.

Now, in the case of Liberia and Sierra Leone, as you know, we have large numbers of Ghanaians there. And it is necessary that we maintain some kind of presence. As to whether it should be a diplomatic presence or consular presence that is where the argument is. But as of now, the decision is that it should be a consular presence. But if you add both countries to the others where we are definitely closing our missions, we come to 13.

[Question] What is the reason behind the closing down of these embassies?

[Answer] The reason simply is one of money. Now, I think we have maintained far too many missions, and that has been a tremendous burden upon the economy. As you know, we have to maintain these missions with foreign exchange; and foreign exchange is one of our biggest problems at the moment. So we are deciding to close down those that are not absolutely essential, in the pursuit of our interest; and we will keep those that we think are actually more important.

[Question] What criteria is going to go into what determines what is not absolutely important?

[Answer] First of all, political relations and secondly, economic benefits. There are some countries with which one has traditional political ties, and in those countries we do not want to break those ties. But there are other countries also in respect of which there is considerable economic benefit in our relationship. And of course you want to keep those also open. And those that we did not have relations with which may be of benefit to us in the future, we try to open new missions as well. It is really a question of what suits our interest.

[Question] Secretary Asamoah, one particular foreign mission whose closure has generated a lot of [word indistinct] is the mission in Holland. Now, traditionally I would believe that there were a lot of Ghanaians there and I believe again that we have some kind of relations with them. Now, taking this as a particular case, why did we have to close the Holland embassy?

[Answer] Well, we have some Ghanaians there, but I won't say a lot. They probably have a lot more of their people here in the form of doctors, missionaries, etc. Now, we do get quite some help from Holland and it has been very painful for us to have to close that mission. But there are very good reasons for doing this: Holand is one of the Benelux countries. And you know the Benelux countries comprises Luxemburg and Belgium as well. You may know that these countries treat each other in such friendly terms that they hardly have anything like borders between them. And between Brussels and the Hague is only about an hour and a half's drive by car. We have to have a mission in Brussels because that is the seat of the EEC. And we are associated with the EEC by virtue of the Lome Convention. And we belong to the group of the developing countries called the ACP [African, Caribbean and Pacific] countries which are associated with the EEC by a ruling of the Lome Convention. Now, these countries' ambassadors in Brussels act as a group that talk to the EEC together. So we have to have a mission there to see to our interests in relations to the EEC. It does not seem sensible to have another mission so close by, particularly when the mission is in a country that also belongs to the EEC. What we are doing is to ensure that the ambassador whom we send to Brussels is concurrently accredited to the Hague so that that ambassador will take care of our interest also in Holland. In addition, we have asked the Dutch to give us one of their nationals to act as a consul general to see to our economic interest and our economic relations. That seems to me to be a good arrangement and everybody should be satisfied with that. And, of course, we are not saying that the Dutch should close their mission here. They can maintain their mission here.

[Question] Well, Mr Foreign Secretary, in spite of cutting down on some foreign missions, it is on record that yet new ones are springing up. For instance, in Cuba, and Libya new missions have been opened. What necessitated these decisions if we did not have the money to maintain other ones?

[Answer] Well, they are basically economic reasons. In the case of Libya, we were expecting that there would be some help in the procurement of oil. You know, Libya is one of those countries that is rich in oil. And our expectation has been that they will be able to provide us oil and to help us in payments when the Nigerians [word indistinct] are forthcoming. That is a very good reason for opening a mission in Libya, that we can get access to that oil, and at the same time, of course, they do have a certain amount of money. And they could be of some help to us in our economic development program. So these are the reasons why we are opening a mission in Libya. I must also state that we did have a mission there before. It was closed down for some political reasons which we do not believe are valid in the present day contest. Libya is one of the countries of the OAU, a sister African country. There is no reason we should not have a mission with Libya. Nigeria and others do have missions with Libya. Now, with regard to Cuba, again our reason is basically economic: Sugar is one of our big problems in this country. We do not have an adequate supply of sugar. The Cubans are very good in the production of sugar and I think we can get some assistance from them in this field. And some efforts have already been made by the Ministry of Industries in this direction.

[Question] So the question is one of trying to get more from who would be considered our friends.

[Answer] Yes, and who are willing to help.

[Question] Now, are you therefore considering, for instance, taking the United States as a case, to improve or increase the number of people we have there, since they are considered to be one of the biggest economic giants?

[Answer] We do not need to increase the number of people we have there. Of course, if somebody wants to go and study there, we are not going to stop them from studying. We do not need to make any specific efforts to increase the number of people we have there. We have two large missions in the United States: one in New York and one in Washington. And we have a large staff in these missions and they can take care of our interest and our relations with the United States.

[Question] Thank you very much, Mr Minister. We cannot cover our whole foreign policy area in one program, and therefore I want to invite you to come over again next week to look at other aspects of our foreign policy in the present day revolution. Thank you very much for honoring our invitation to come.

[Answer] Thank you.

ANOTHER LIBYAN FOOD SHIPMENT ARRIVES 3 MAY

AB031820 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 3 May 82

[Text] Libya has donated another consignment of food items to Ghana. The 47-ton consignment arrived in Accra today. The items include flour and rice and they are meant for the hospitals, orphanages, leprosaria and children's homes.

SIERRA LEONE

VOTE CANCELED IN FOUR MORE CONSTITUENCIES

AB040730 Freetown Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 4 May 82

[Text] The electoral commission has announced the cancelation of elections in four more constituencies. These are Bombali Central, Bong South, Tonkanuli Central and the Moyamba North constituencies. This brings to a total of 12 constituencies in which the electoral commission has canceled elections because of serious electoral irregularities.

It will be recalled that elections in Moyamba West I constituency was postponed by the electoral commission because of serious irregularities in the constituency following the primary elections. Fresh elections are to be held in these constitutencies as early as possible, the electoral commission stated.

TOGO

AIR AGREEMENT NEGOTIATED WITH TUNISIA 30 APRIL

AB302101 Lome Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 30 Apr 82

[Excerpts] The Tunisian and Togolese Republics just negotiated an air agreement in Lome. The negotiations, which began [words indistinct], the arrival date in Togo of the Tunisian delegation of experts, were held within the framework of strengthening ties of friendship and cooperation between Tunisia and Togo.

The negotiations were held in an atmosphere of open collaboration and mutual understanding. The Tunisian delegation members thanked the head of state and president, Gen Gnassingbe Eyadema, for the fraternal welcome given them during their stay.

UPPER VOLTA

AFP DESCRIBES 'MALAISE' WITHIN LEADERSHIP, ARMY

AB291410 Paris AFP in French 1151 GMT 29 Apr 82

[By AFP special correspondent Patrick van Roekeghem]

[Text] Ouagadougou, 29 Apr (AFP) -- A profound malaise is now noticeable within the ruling Upper Voltan Army and much dissension has apparently caused a dozen captains to resign from the Council of the Upper Voltan Armed Forces (COFAV), it was learned from a generally well-informed source in Ouagadougou.

While this tension builds up within the leadership team, the trade unions refuse to be mollified and periodically call for strikes. Although the calls are not heeded, they nevertheless reflect a latent discontent.

The resignation of Capt Thomas Sanakra from his post of secretary of state for the information, officially announced at the end of last week, is proof of the present malaise. Apparently, it has led to the sudden postponement sine dies of a seminar on information which was to be held 24 - 30 April, although several delegations, including the UNESCO delegation, were already in Ouagadougou.

The Upper Voltan daily, L'OBSERVATEUR, unofficially mentioned the resignation of two captains from the COFAV. The supreme military and political advisory body to the Upper Voltan head of state was set up by the previous regime and maintained by Col Saye Zerbo, chairman of the Military Council of Redress for National Progress [CMRPN].

L'OBSERVATEUR affirmed at the beginning of last week that the COFAV is to meet to "consider in depth the present situation" and "seek ways and means of breathing new life into the CMRPN" which, according to the newspaper, it "probably needs."

The dissension among the military apparently is connected with the application of the grand options defined on 25 November 1980 on the overthrow of General Sangoule Lamizana, under house arrest, and with the attitude adopted toward repeated industrial actions.

In the last few days, meetings upon meetings, often until late at night, have been held at the Camp Guillaume in Ouagadougou. Although nothing has leaked out from these meetings, it is obvious that the COFAV is trying to find solutions to the crisis in the ruling military team. A crisis which persists since the captains do not hesitate to denounce what they describe as "mistakes" made by the regime, according to some observers in Ouagadougou. These "mistakes" appear to be a certain "ultraconversatism" and failure to fulfill promises made when the Lamizana regime was ousted -- "inability" to redress the economic situation, among other things.

The Upper Voltan population remains calm but there are nevertheless sporadic strikes. The orders -- issued in mid-April to halt work to demand the repeal of a 14 January ordinance governing the right to strike, the reestablishment of the Upper Voltan Trade Union Confederation (CSV) and the cancellation of the arrest warrant against Soumane Toure, former secretary general of this confederation -- were barely heeded. But the trade union leaders have not given up and according to certain sources, they still enjoy considerable support among the workers.

According to some observers, in the future, they may be listened to more because of the daily social and economic problems facing the population. For instance, there is a shortage of basic foodstuffs such as sugar, rice and salt, something that had never happened before, and last weekend, the retrenchment of workers in this trade, it seems the authorities have decided to adopt a hard line against these various movements which might increase the discontent among workers and worsen the social climate, according to some observers.

According to the Upper Voltan news agency, in fact, about 60 persons have been suspended from their employment while some temporary staff of the civil service have been dismissed following the strike on 14, 15 and 16 April. These decisions apparently were made on 23 April but were only disclosed this Thursday.

Thus, "convinced of the logic of the ordinance of 14 January," according to L'OBSERVATEUR, the CMRPN has gone one step further by taking measures against the strikers that will have repercussions that will make people unhappy and that are obviously not likely to improve the political, social and economic situation.

UNIONS ASK RETURN TO NORMAL CONSTITUTIONAL LIFE

AB021240 Paris AFP in French 1738 GMT 1 May 82

[Text] Ouagadougou, 1 May (AFP) -- Several Upper Voltan trade unions on Friday asked for a return to a normal constitutional life on the occasion of May Day celebrations.

During a meeting at the Ouagadougou labor hall, three unions (National Confederation of Voltan Workers, Voltan Organization of Free Trade Unions, Voltan Workers Trade Union Federation) made the request -- the first since the coming into power of the military committee led by Col Saye Zerbo on 25 November 1980 -- in a statement read to the workers who were present.

The statement denounces "the restriction of union freedom" and asks for the creation of a "Ministry of Labor and Social Security."

Contrary to custom, the unions did not present their list of grievances to the government. They justify their decision by "the refusal of the minister for public service and labor to receive them."

Consequently, they have decided to wait to be received by head of state Col Saye Zerbo, chairman of the Military Committee of Redress for National Progress, rather than to go to the minister concerned. During the rally, the trade unions warned the Catholic Church about having, according to them, "criticized the trade unions at places of worship."

Although the nature of the criticism was not mentioned, the secretary general of the Voltan Organization of Free Trade Unions, Boniface Kabore, stated: "We believe people go to places of worship to kiss the Lord's feet and not for bootlicking. We are telling these clergymen, for God's sake, to advise their friends so that there can be true social peace in Upper Volta."

These firm positions taken by the trade unions came after the Upper Voltan minister of civil service and labor, Alexandre Zougrana, took action against several civil servants for having gone on strike in mid-April (about 60 cadres were suspended and several temporary workers were sacked). The trade unions particularly are demanding the cancellation of an ordinance issued last January on the right to strike, the reinstatement of the Upper Voltan Labor Confederation and the lifting of the arrest warrant for its former secretary general.

In his broadcast to the nation on the occasion of 1 May, the minister of civil service simply called on Upper Voltan workers to double their efforts to overcome underdevelopment.

ANGOLA

DEFENSE MINISTRY ISSUES COMMUNIQUE 2 MAY

AB031305 Luanda ANGOP in Portuguese 1110 GMT 3 May 82

[Text] Luanda, 2 May (ANGOP) -- The Defense Ministry of the People's Republic of Angola this morning issued the following communique:

As announced by the Angolan Government, the racist South African forces are slowly completing preparations for another wide-scale criminal action against our territory, this time from the already occupied areas of Cunene.

Proof of these preparations is that during the second half of April movements of South Africa's regular troops from central Namibia toward the north near the Angolan border have been observed as well as movements of mercenary troops -- mainly composed of British, Americans and West Germans, previously concentrated next to the border -- toward the interior of our country in the areas occupied and controlled by racist South Africa's troops. A sudden increase of reconnaissance flights along the entire southern border also was observed during the last week of April.

In fact, regular South African troops (one brigade) were concentrated in the area of Otavi in Namibia, 160 km southwest of Ngiva. The mercenary forces already inside our territory have been deployed in Ruacana, Chitado, Chiede and Oncocua. Several helicopters are stationed in the last two localities.

Concerning the reconnaissance flights, there were more than 70 in the month of April with a sudden increase during the last week when there were more than 34 flights in the Province of Mocamedes, over Iona, Baia Dos Tigres and Porto Alexandre where they dropped pamphlets intimidating the population; Mocamedes and Virei; in the Province of Cunene; over Cahama, Cuvelai and Mupa in the Province of Huila; over Vila Nova de Armada, Caiundo Menongue and Cuito, Cuanavale; and in the Province of Moxico, over Nguimbo Cangamba, Tempue and Cangombe.

Added to this, we recorded during the April the reemergence of activities by the South African Air Force which attacked the population and columns of military vehicles on the ground.

This is how on 4, 21 and 27 April, the South African Air Force bombarded the populations of Tchimbemba, Mulondo and Mupa as well as a military column in the Cahama area, which resulted in 7 dead and 18 wounded among the civilians and the military and very heavy material losses.

Simultaneously with these military preparations, the South African racist general, Magnus Malan, defense minister, impudently and without consideration for the decisions of the supreme world bodies which constantly condemn the bellicose and racist Pretoria regime for the aggressions committed against the frontline states and particularly against Angola, informed the whole world of the intentions of the racist government to extend its war of aggression further into the northern part of our country, thus widening the occupied areas and continuing to cause death and misery among our people with the aim of continuing the destabilization process of our economy in the attempt to make our people bow to the criminal war machine.

The defense minister once again appeals to the international community to immediately put an end to this criminal aggression of the racist Pretoria regime -- assisted, without doubt, by Western powers led by the United States of America -- by demanding that, once and for all, Pretoria recognizes the right of the Namibian people to self-determination and independence and on the basis of UN Resolution 435 and thus initiate the process that will lead the Namibian people to total freedom from the South African colonial yoke. The struggle continues. Victory is certain.

DOS SANTOS DISCUSSES DEFENSE NEEDS, NAMIBIA

AB301306 Luanda ANGOP in French 1130 GMT 30 Apr 82

[Text] Malange, 30 Apr (ANGOP) -- We do not have the right to lose what already has been conquered. We would be committing a historical error if we do not defend what we already have conquered, Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and head of state of the People's Republic of Angola, said in Malange on Thursday.

The Angolan head of state, addressing a rally in the main town of the Malange Province where he was on a 3-day working visit, further indicated that our policy is to defend the popular masses and to solve their problems. Each citizen, he said, is responsible for defense. He added that we should have the necessary courage to guarantee, if need be, the defense of our localities, villages, cities and municipal districts.

President Eduardo dos Santos once again recalled that the defense option chosen by Angola is being attacked by the imperialist forces who have their representatives in Africa, especially in South Africa which wants to prevent us from achieving our objectives by carrying out acts of destabilization against Angola.

eferring to the problem of Namibia, the Angolan president indicated that this illegally occupied territory is used to train puppets who violate Angolan borders to create problems, destroy plantations, steal cattle and destabilize the economic and social situation of the People's Republic of Angola. This territory also is used as a base for attacks against Angola, with a dual aim of preventing us from expressing our proletarian internationalism to the Namibian people and turning us away from the main tasks of building socialism, President Eduardo dos Santos further declared.

In the same context, the Angolan head of state said the imperialist forces have sworn to prevent the building the socialism in the People's Republic of Angola. We should be vigilant and mobilize ourselves to constantly defend our borders, President Jose Eduardo dos Santos concluded.

GDR FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES FOR 3-DAY VISIT

AB032131 Luanda ANGOP in French 1930 GMT 3 May 82

[Text] Luanda, 3 May (ANGOP) -- Oskar Fischer, GDR minister of foreign affairs and member of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany [SED] arrived in Luanda on Monday at the head of a minister delegation, for a 3-day official visit to Angola.

In a statement to the press on his arrival, Fischer noted that our fresh contacts demonstrate the efforts made by our parties, countries and peoples to constantly strengthen the long-dated solid bonds of friendship linking us (...) and reinforced by the treaty of friendship and cooperation between the GDR and the People's Republic of Angola.

The GDR minister observed that he is scheduled to hold discussions with officials of the Angolan Government on the enhancement of bilateral relations and on the international situation. Oskar Fischer condemned the persistent acts of aggression being perpetrated against the People's Republic of Angola by the South African racists.

In addition to talks with Angolan authorities, the delegation will be received by Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and will hold discussions with SWAPO, the vanguard movement and sole legitimate representative of the Namibian people.

NAMIBIA

SWAPO MEMORANDUM REQUESTS UN NAMIBIA CONFERENCE

AB032052 Luanda ANGOP in French 1957 GMT 3 Apr 82

[Text] Luanda, 3 May (ANGOP) -- SWAPO considers the holding of a UN-sponsored conference similar to the one held in Geneva in January 1981 a more efficient framework to examine further constructive proposals on the settlement of the Namibian problem.

In a memorandum sent to the contact group and published in Luanda today, Monday, SWAPO considers that the most appropriate way to break the deadlock in the negotiations is to consider as positive SWAPO's proposal to hold under the auspices of the United Nations a Geneva-type conference during which all suggestions made by all parties involved in the complex problem of Namibia would be examined.

In this regard, the document, a reply to the new proposals made by the five-nation Western contact group submitted on 1 April 1982 to the vanguard movement of the Namibian people, once again appeals to the contact group to consider as a matter of urgency the holding of such a conference with a view to examining the questions on the three phases (?previously) proposed by the group.

SWAPO's insistence on this point occurs when South Africa has reversed its position of January 1981 after receiving information from the contact group and is now willing to go ahead with the implementation of the UN plans for Namibia's independence.

SWAPO reminds the five Western nations of the contact group (United States, Canada, Britain, the FRG and France) that even though new proposals may be made, UN resolution 435 remains the only acceptable way to achieve a solution to the problem.

On the other hand, SWAPO has again rejected the double-ballot system proposed by the contact group for the elections. SWAPO's document explains that in proposing now the system of one-man one-voice [as received] and one-voice two-votes to the [words indistinct] proposed before, the five countries pretend to complicate the system with a view to reserving privileges for the white minority after independence.

SWAPO STATEMENT COMMEMORATES 1978 MASSACRE

EA032218 Dar es Salaam in English to East Central and Southern Africa 1600 GMT 3 May 82

[Text] SWAPO of Namibia has again reiterated its commitment to armed struggle to liberate that territory from South African occupation.

In a statement released in Dar es Salaam today, SWAPO said the people of Namibia will continue to intensify their armed struggle to its logical conclusion. The statement was issued to commemorate 4 May when South African forces massacred more than 700 defenseless Namibian refugees at Cassinga in southern Angola.

SWAPO in its statement underlines that its militants are ready to cross more rivers of blood on their way to freedom and national liberation. It said that massacres like those committed by imperialist military (?regimes) elsewhere in history serve only to reinforce the oppressed people's determination to free themselves.

In the early morning of 5 May 1978, airborne South African racist troops pounded the Cassinga refugee camp inside Angola, killing 165 men, 300 children and 294 women. Some refugees who ran away from the massacre are still listed as missing.

SWAPO DESERTER SAYS CHILDREN SENT TO USSR

AB021330 Paris AFP in English 1257 GMT 2 May 82

[By Bernard Aubert]

[Text] Oshakati, northern Namibia, 2 May (AFP) -- An alleged deserter from the South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) fighting South African troops in Namibia claimed here that kidnapped schoolchildren had been sent by SWAPO to the Soviet Union for indoctrination.

The man, a 31-year-old Ovambo whose name was not given "for security reasons", was produced by the South Africans and questioned by intelligence officers in the presence of this correspondent, who had been invited into the "operational zone" by the South African military authorities. His replies were in the local dialect of Kwanyama, translated into Afrikaans and then into English by the interrogating officers for this correspondent's benefit.

The man said he himself had been pressganged in 1979 from his home village near the Angolan frontier by SWAPO's armed wing, the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN). He had been trained in a sapper unit at Lubango, 100 kilometers (65 miles) east of the Angolan port of Mocamedes, with 200 other young men of various ethnic origins -- Ovambos, Damaras, Caprivis and Imbas.

The alleged deserter said he had been taught how to lay Soviet-made mines and use explosives. He had set anti-tank mines along the southern Angolan border in a team of ten men, each carrying two or three mines. The man also said his instructors had been trained in Cuba, Libya and East Germany.

He claimed to have seen schoolchildren kidnapped in northern Namibia by SWAPO -- 40 were seized last February along with the headmaster and another teacher -- arive in [word indistinct] camps in Angola. He was told that those under 17 were sent to Luanda then to the Soviet Union. The older ones were trained in Angola in SWAPO centres by Cubans and Soviets, he alleged.

The man said he had deserted because he was tired of fighting without pay or food for a cause that was "obscure". Morale in SWAPO was low, he alleged, and recruitment was becoming more difficult.

The deserter said he had been involved in several serious clashes with guerrillas of Jonas Savimbi's UNITA movement, the Union for the Total Independence of Angola, fighting the Luanda government with South African support. "But the UNITA men are bad shots and we are more afraid of the South Africans," he asserted in an obvious desire to please his interrogators.

The man, who said he would be murdered by SWAPO if he returned to his village, denied he had been tortured or mistreated by the South Africans. His interrogators said after the two-hour interview that he had also implied that he wanted to fight for the South Africans, but one added, "He is not quite sure, and we are wary of this sort of deserter."

SECURITY FORCES REPORT CLASH WITH 'TERRORISTS'

LD031644 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 3 May 82

[Text] The security forces in South-West Africa/Namibia have killed 5 more SWAPO terrorists since Saturday, bringing the total killed in the latest offensive to 54.

A communique issued by the territory force in Windhoek says four of the terrorists were killed near Oshivelo in the Mangetti block. They were busy fleeing from the area when they were confronted. The fifth terrorist was shot at a farm near Grootfontein, also in the north of South-West Africa.

The territory force also said that several of the SWAPO terrorists killed lately were wearing items of uniforms of the Angolan Army. This was the first time that SWAPO terrorists had been found inside South-West Africa/Namibia wearing such Angolan uniform items. This was proof of the close cooperation that existed between SWAPO and the Angolan Army and it also proved that they used a joint logistical system.

In addition to these incidents, a white farmer was killed and two members of the security forces injured when their vehicle detonated a landmine in the Tsumeb district. A late report from Pretoria says a South African soldier, Capt Leon van Wyk, was killed in action against terrorists in the vicinity of Otavi, South-West of Tsumeb at the weekend.

SOUTH AFRICA

NO COMMENT ON REPORTED TALKS WITH U.S.

LD032302 Johannesburg International Service in English 2100 GMT 3 May 82

[Text] The South African Department of Foreign Affairs has refused comment on reports that South Africa and the United States of America are to hold talks in Switzerland this week on the South-West Africa/Namibia question. The reports also state that the talks may be followed by a meeting of the Western contact group. Our political correspondent says although no official mention was made, such a meeting should be seen as a logical step and could be expected soon.

ZAMBIA

MINISTER OF STATE MEETS WITH USSR'S ILICHEV

CA041040 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 3 May 82

[Text] The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mr Ottema Muskua today held a 3-hour meeting with his Soviet counterpart Leonid Ilichev, at which they discussed a number of issues pertaining to Zambia - Soviet relations. A spokesman for the minister of foreign affairs said the two ministers also discussed a wide range of world problems and examined the current situation in southern African in general and the Namibian independence problem in particular. The spokesman said the Soviet minister was also expected to meet other party and government leaders including President Kaunda.

Ilichev Views OAU Split

CA041046 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 4 May 82

[Text] Visiting Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Mr Leonid Ilichev said last night that the apparent split in the Organization of African Unity, OAU, over the Western Saharan issue may delay the liberation of Namibia and South Africa. Mr Ilichev said his country shared Zambia's anxiety over the looming split of the OAU resulting from the admission of the Polisario Front to its membership.

Speaking at Intercontinental Hotel at a dinner hosted in his honor by his Zambian counterpart, Mr Ottema Muskua, minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Ilichev said the OAU's objectives of ridding the continent of the remnants of colonialism and racism may be delayed if the organization is divided. He expressed the hope that African countries would be able to resolve this issue in the interests of African unity and the liberation of countries on the continent suffering from racism.

Earlier Mr Muskua called on the Soviet Union and other progressive countries to continue supporting SWAPO politically and materially to speed up its task of liberating Namibia.

ZIMBABWE

MUGABE OUTLINES TASKS IN MAY DAY ADDRESS

CA031052 Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 1 May 82

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Mugabe, today addressed a May Day rally at Rufaro Stadium in Harare. During the address, the prime minister set out 10 tasks to be accomplished by all Zimbabweans in our determination to create a socialist society. The tasks are as follows:

1. All workers should unite and organize themselves under lawful workers' unions and vigorously fight to transform the soceity from colonialist dependence to socialist self-reliance.

2. All workers should be orderly and disciplined as they assert their power at their places of work, and fully utilize and support their elected representatives on workers' committees and trade unions.

3. All workers should prepare themselves mentally and technically for effective participation in the management of the enterprises at which they work, realizing in this regard that skills, training and proper ideological orientation are the sine qua non of our success.

4. All workers should be conscious of themselves as a class which is the productive force of the nation working above racism, tribalism, regionalism and nepotism.

5. All workers should work hard and drunkeness, indiscipline, absenteeism from work should be ruled out and workers should remain conscious always of their responsibilities to the country and the nation.

6. All workers should never resort to strike action before they have tried and exhausted all mediation channels.

7. All workers should work in conscious solidarity with other workers all over the world.

8. All workers should shoulder their family responsibilities fully, save money for use during family emergencies and to sustain them during old age.

9. All workers should rally behind the government and its programs to achieve the social transformation of Zimbabwe.

10. All workers should cherish our sovereign independence and need for permanent peace by maintaining maximum vigilance against lawless bandits, political malcontents and saboteurs on the payroll of South Africa who seek to overthrow our democracy and sovereign rule.

309 ZAPU MEMBERS DEFECT TO ZANU IN KWEKWE

CA031022 Harare Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 2 May 82

[Excerpt] In Kwekwe, 309 ZAPU-PF members have resigned to join ZANU-PF.. A ZANU-PF official in Kwekwe, Comrade (Chinuwanzu), said the former ZAPU-PF members handed in their party cards and said ZANU-PF is a growing party and that its government has the interests of the masses at heart.